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THE AMERICAN.

A tragi-comedy in four acts.

by

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PERSONS

(Named in the order of their appearance)

Pini
Nesi
Leibke
Hirsch the watchmaker
Solomon (also called Schloime)
First girl
Second girl
Pearl
Beile
An old man
Brantcia
Mayer the dummy
A red-headed man
Sali Blank
Matilda Blank
Scheva
Zischa the match-maker
Jonas Blank
Danilo
Male and female servants
Gitcia
A civil engineer
An assistant
A band of village musicians, dancers, victims of the fire

Time - Now
Place - A small town in Galicia

The occurences of the first and fourth acts take place in front of Hirsch the watchmaker's house ; of the second on Jonas Blank's Estate. The scene of the third act is laid in Hirsch the watchmaker's house.

A MAN of THE WORLD

THE FIRST ACT

A by - street in front of Hirsch the watch-maker's and Pini's joined house. On Pini's side to the right runs a lane, across which stands the bak-part of a neighbor's house with door and window. This window being broken, one of t e panes is stuffed with an old pillow. On Hirsch's half to the right is an ascending square. The house across the lane is placed in such a position, as to cut off the view of the other neighboring houses, and only the tops of their shingled roofs are visible. Both halves of Hirsch's and Pini's house have two windows each , but , whereas Pini's half has a door with a few steps leading right into the interior of the house, there is on Hirsch's side a kind of spacious balcony with steps descending right into street and a door into dining-room. On the balcony is seen a watch-maker's work-table and a chair behind it/. There is a show-case with various articles of jewelry placed between both open windows. Beneath Pini's windows stands a wooden bench. All visible houses including the latter are one story cottages.

It is a warm afternoon in April.

Immediately after the curtain goes up , Pini's windows are opened from within. Soon after appears Pini in one of the windows

PINI

(Calls into the interior)
A draught ! Close the windows !
(Closes both windows)

NESI

(Reopens the windows from the inside)
Let a little fresh air come in ! The windows were closed the whole winter !
(Takes away Pini, who attempts to close them again)

PINI

(Steps outside with a bang to of the outer door. He is a small withered man of about fifty five, nervous restless, with a small jaundiced face. His clothes are threadbare but exceptionally clean as he has a habit of continually brushing and smoothing them.
He carries a kind of dried up whisk broom and begins to sweep the walk of his half. A thick dust rising he calls into the window.)

Nesi ! Nesi ! Hand me the pot with the hole I want to besprinkle !

NESI

(In the window)
What , again ? !-----Didnt you sweep it a minute ago ! Ever since the American came home, there is a showing off !
(Points at the watch-maker's)

PINI

Well - its because someone's dirtying this place, damn 'it !
(Nesi gives a scornful nod and disappears)

LEIBKE

(Struts out with an earthen flower-pot filled with water. He stops the hole with a finger. He is a stiff bony fellow of about thirty two with a pitch-black well groomed mustache. He has an affectedly upright figure, a forced stiff gait, and is sportily dressed.)

Pap - I want to do it.

PINI

Dont bother me .

LEIBKE

I'm making scrolls, look -
(Does so)

PINI

(Pulling at the pot)
Let go ! Let go I tell you !
(Each pulling the pot they spill the water.)

LEIBKE

(Dodging)
Dont,dont spoil it ! Oh you spoiled this fine scroll ! Why do you meddle here ? Who asks you to meddle here ? Such a fine scroll spoiled !
(

PINI

Go to the devil ! You good-for nothing ! You idler ! Some folks have luck with their children. Look at the American - a gentleman, a magnate, a man of the world ! Thousands of dollars in the bank. Ran away a boy of sixteen, went to America worked himself up- and you--look at him look at him !

LEIBKE

Why dont you give me money ~~[illegible]~~ I too wanted to run away. I'h ave a finer hand-writing than he !

PINI

Did anybody give h i m money ? ~~[illegible]~~

Opened up a factory soon, he - a plain watch-maker !

LEIBKE
Sure , when a man sits at a cash-drawer its always so. They didnt watch him as they're watching me ! They never gave me a chance to steal anything !

PINI
So He borrowed a few Kronen without his father's knowledge ! But he sent it back afterwards, didnt he ?.

LEIBKE
Why dont you give me a chance ? I too would send it back !

PINI
Give you a chance at stealing ? No sir ! I should say no !

LEIBKE
Its good you told me that. I shall know what to do next time. I'll knoe better than to waste my time in this God-forsaken town ! With my kind of handwriting !
(Goes into the house.)

PINI
Is that so !
(Gathers the sweepings and drops them stealthily near the other neighbor's house.

HIRSCH
(Comesout on the balcony and sits down to work. He is a man of over sixty with gray hair and beard. Upright,respectable looking .)

PINI
(Goes near the balcony)
Out with the work-table on the balcony, eh ? fine ! Nice day, what ?

HIRSCH
Its about time . Two weeks past Easter.

PINI
But last year it rained hard at this time.
(Takes out his snuff-box)
Want a pinch ?

HIRSCH
Oh well -
(Reaches out for a pinch.)

PINI

Where about is your Solomon ?

HIRSCH

Down at the post-office for his news-paper.

PINI

He dont do muchh working these days -

HIRSCH

Why should he ? The boy has brought home a fortune. Its his consideration for his father that makes him work at all.

PINI

Thats what puzzles me. A millionaire for a son and you working-- if I were in your place I'd sit all day in the synagogue, or go for a walk every day on the mall.

HIRSCH

Everything is a matter of taste. I like it better that way. I wouldnt make myself dependent upon a child, no matter how rich. The copper I earn with these old hands of mine looks better to me than a hundred of his. ~~[illegible]~~. He didnt have the best of times in his childhood, a step-mother you know -It's bad enough I couldnt do anything for him.

PINI

Well, but you did have it your way after all. You insisted on his coming home, and home he came.

HIRSCH

I wrote plenty of letters. Its hard being alone in one's old age.

SOLOMON

(Comes down the square,He is a man of thirty tall, handsome, elegantly dressed. Carries a cane in one hand, and a newspaper in the other.)

PINI

There he is. Talk of the angels-

SOLOMON

You've taken out the work-table -

HIRSCH

Its because you're so hungry for a little fresh air. It seems there is little air in your America-

SOLOMON

Same as in every big city.

NESI

(Comes outside. She is a robust woman of fifty. Approaches Pini.)

PINI

Solomon- er- I wanted to ask you- when you finish the paper I'd like to look into it- if you dont mind -

SOLOMON

Certainly !

NESI

Of course he'll give it to you, why not ? Dont I remember him a little mite of a boy ? He used to say "Give me a topper" (Laughs) ain't it Solomon ?

SOLOMON

You have a good memory.

NESI

You bet I have ! Why shouldnt I ? Arent you my Brantche's age ? Dont I remember you playing at mud-pies with her ?
(Pini gives her a nudge to keep quiet)

PINI

Go in and prepare some tea. The herring burns the life out of me.

SOLOMON

(Handing Pini the paper.)
I'm through. You can have it now.

PINI

~~(Takes the paper)~~
Thanks - !

NESI

Dont worry, he'll take good care of it.
(Both go into the house.)

SOLOMON

Papa -I translate again - you dont mind do you ?

HIRSCH

So you're late. You are not a day labourer here, are you ?

SOLOMON

Its the third time today -

HIRSCH

Never mind -

SOLOMON

(Takes off his gloves throws them into the hat and together with his cane carries them inside. Comes out immediately.) Papa, let me sit down!

HIRSCH

Only let me put in this spring -

SOLOMON

What, you're still working at that watch ? ! I must say !

HIRSCH

I know, it wouldnt take you two minutes.

SOLOMON

Why of course ! I wouldnt think of wasting a half a day at a cheap little watch like this - for one Krone ! We'd starve to death if we'd do that in America !

HIRSCH

I know you're right, but - the thing had to be taken apart. Of course I could botch ~~fix~~ it, but the watch would stop soon,

SOLOMON

And what if should stop ? We could fix it again -

HIRSCH

Fix it again ? ~~////~~ - means -- money again, and that ---

SOLOMON

~~I say, Pap~~, you're still sticking to your oldfashioned ways . I tell you there are modern methods !

HIRSCH

But this isnt America !

SOLOMON

You saw how much it took me to fix the red-headed man's clock. Whats his name ?

HIRSCH

I ts Red Welwel .

SOLOMON

Thats right, RedWelwel. Sure, or else we'd never get through, particularly now, that there is such a busy.

HIRSCH

Thank God, nothing to complain of, ~~~~~~~~~~, ever since you came home, you brought good luck into the house. I wonder where they get all those clocks. Do you know - I'm thinking of putting in another work-table.

SOLOMON

Oh one will do .

HIRSCH

Why, do you intend taking out the money from the bank and opening up some business of your own ? It wouldnt be a bad thing. And then the Tarnopol bank is not considered safe -

SOLOMON

I'll see.

HIRSCH

It wouldnt be a bad thing.
(Gets up)
Well, its done.

SOLOMON

(Sits down to work., adjusting the magnifying glass)
What did you say before ? The Stanislau Bank is not safe ?
If I'd have known before, I shouldnt have put my money in the Stanislau Bank --

HIRSCH

(Surprised)
S t a n i s l a u Bank ? I thought you said Tarnopol Bank !

SOLOMON

(Embarrassed)
Yes yes, Tarnopol Bank. Thats right. I meant Tarnopol Bank.

HIRSCH

Some mistake ! It would be a fine joke if you'd ask for money where they didnt owe you any ! Well I'm going to unpack the new assignment of goods.
(Goes into the house. Solomon props his head on his hands reflecting

a moment , and then makes a movement as if shaking off some burden.)

TWO GIRLS come down the square, looking around.)

FIRST GIRL

Always at this time he plays violin . There he is!

SECOND GIRL

Oh I'm ashamed !

FIRST GIRL

Come on ! In Lemberg there are many like him. In every corner. Nicer ones. Handsome officers, lieutenants . Dont be bashful, you small-town girl . Is it the first time you see an American ? (Takes her by the hand, both advance slowly towards the balcony, and both stop as they see

PEARL

A pretty blonde of eighteen comes down the lane. She wears a green velvet dress and a Tam-o' Shanter from the same material. Her face is veiled. As she passes by the balcony she looks up at Solomon.

SOLOMON

(Takes off his magnifying glass and greets her with a " Wie gehts Fraülein Pearl thanking goes up the square, encountering the girls.)

The girls approach the balcony.

SECOND GIRL

Oh, I'm dying ! Look, Pearl, she's veiled ! Such a snotty in a veil!

FIRST GIRL

Oh, she always walks up and down the balcony. All the girls of the town do.

SECOND GIRL

Such a snotty in a veil !

FIRST GIRL

Its for him - for Solomon. !
~~(Both girls pass by the balcony , as they come near Solomon the second girl bursts out laughing, for which the first girl gives her a nudge talking out loud)~~
~~You small-town girl !~~

~~SOLOMON watches them disappear [illegible] down the lane smilingly.~~

That's why she became friends with Brantche.' Cause Brantche lives next door to Solomon, you know -

SECOND GIRL

Is it true, they say that Brantche and Solomon -
(Whispers something inot her ear.)

FIRST GIRL

Why certainly ! Ever since they were children, didnt you know about it ? Thats why she stays an old maid. Thats why she turned grey - She's still waiting for him. She thinks he'll marry her.-

SECOND GIRL

Is that so !

FIRST GIRL

Come on !
(They pass by the balcony. As they approach Solomon , the second girl bursts out laughing. The first girl gives her a nudge and calls out loud :)
You small -town girl !

SOLOMON watches them disappear up the lane, smilingly.)

HIRSCH

(Comes out on the balcony)
Mother wants you to have a glass of tea .

SOLOMON

One second -

HIRSCH

Come, I'll finish that, and you go in and play some nice air on the fiddle.

SOLOMON

One second -

BEILE

(Comes out. She is a tall haggeard woman, past fifty.)
Solomon the samovar is boiling come to tea ! You ought to taste the sugary bisquits -
They melt in your mouth.

SOLOMON

I see you've been plotting - a hold-up --

BEILE

Biscuits I tell you Schloimeniu, you never tasted anything like it.
~~Mere oil and sugar~~ ! Mere oil and sugar !
~~... resisting this strong temptation~~ .
~~(Goes into the house with Beile following.)~~

SOLOMON

Allright !
(He and Beile go into the house. Hirsch sits down to work)

LEIBKE

(Steps out. Goes to the balcony)
Reb Hirsch, did you see the letter-carrier ?

HIRSCH

No I ~~did//ot~~ not see the letter-carrier. Ah Leibke Leibke you're giving yourself to trifles. When will you become a mensch ? Look at my Solomon -

LEIBKE

I'll bet your Solomon hasnt got as nice a hand-writing as mine ?!

HIRSCH

You bet he's got a nicer one !

LEIBKE

Is that so !

HIRSCH

Besides of what good is your hand-writing, when you - y o u !But eh what business is it of mine ! You've got your own father to -

LEIBKE

And you could tell me to my face that , that Solomon has a nicer hand-writing ?

NESI

(In the window)
Leibke, Leibke come inside, papa wants you !

LEIBKE

I'll come in later. I have a very important thing to look to !
(Goes to the next neighbor's ~~window~~ house, looks into the window ~~and~~ then knocks at the door.)
Reb Beril ! Reb Beril !
(A rattling of wooden slippers is heard, the door opens and out peeps an old man ~~//~~ his head wrapped up in bandages, with only his grey beard sticking out. He is covered with a woman's shawl, and groans.)

OLD MAN

What's the matter ? Oi ! What happened ,what-- ?

LEIBKE

Did you see the letter-carrier ?

THE OLD MAN slams the door in his face.

NESI

Leibke ! A sickness in your bones, where are you ?

LEIBKE

I have no time, I'm waiting for the letter-carrier !

NESI

What,again the letter-carrier ? Did you again order smelling-soap from Vienna ? Wait ! Now,I'll fix you ! I am going to tell father, if its the last thing I do !

LEIBKE

I must see the letter-carrier !
(Goes up the square)

NESI

Go through the back-door, so papa wont see you !
(Disappears)

BRANTCHE

(Comes out from the house with an embroidering frame, sits down on the bench and embroiders. She is a girl whose age it is hard to define but handsome. Her dark hair which she wears in two braids is grey at the temples. Wears a nvy blue sailor blouse.

NESI

(Following her)
I'm going to unload all the troubles of my bitter heart on your head !
Why dont you want to eat ?

BRANTCHE

I am not hungry.

NESI

Did anyone see such a thing ? Ever since the American came home there is God's punishment upon me ! The brother the fine Herr, and herself ! Where shall I get you money for new shoes ! The rush is over. No more poultry to fatten ! Its summer already ! We have to get along with the few Kronen until after Tabernacles !

BRANTCHE

Allright !

NESI

The "Herr" with his smelling soaps,-because the American has smelling-soaps - and for her patent leather shoes ! She should sport ! She should waddle on her fance heels and flirt ! With whom are you flirting I'd like to know ?

BRANTCHE

Dont holler ! Everyone can hear you !

NESI

(Pointing at the balcony)
He will get a millionaire's daughter !

BRANTCHE

(Jumps up in a fury)
Ah,if you were not my mother !

NESI

Its a shame ! Folks are pointing with fingers at us - an old maid !

BRANTCH

By anthor word, and - you'll have a funeral tomorrow ! Go in I tell you !

NESI

(Goes into the house) God's punishment is upon me !

BRANTCHE

(Reseats herself , embroiders)

From Hirsch 's house is heard the tuning of a violin , and then a popular waltz "Adolph und Rösie " Hirsch listens for a while puts his work from him, and goes smilingly into the house .†

PEARL

(Comes down the square, carrying an embroidering frame. She is dressed as before, but without the hat and veil. Shakes hands with Brantche)
~~and sits down on the bench.~~
~~How do you do ?~~
" Wiegehts " ?

BRANTCHE

~~How do you do ?~~
(" Wiegehts " ?

PEARL

(Sits down on the bench and embroiders)

He's playing now--~~////~~ already he knows how to play the new waltz---
(Sings to the fiddle)

Adolph und Rösie
Gehn zu einem Ball
Sie tanzen ganz shneidig
Bis mitternacht
Dann wird zum speisen
Pause gemacht.
Kaum klingt ein Waltzer
Kommt ein Husar
Der da mit Rösie
Tazt wunderbar.
La la lala, la-la la----

PEARL

Do you know he has a ~~//////~~ mandolin too, I saw him carry it in a green mantl with buttons of mother-of pearl !

BRANTCHE

Is that so !

PEARL

As if ~~xxxx~~ she didnt know !

BRANTCH

You know I dont come there !

PEARL

Why dont you ? Youre not on bad terms with them, are you ?

BRANTCHE

Not exactly.

PEARL

Its only since he came home , ain'it ? Just the contrary from what ~~w~~ people say -

BRANTCHE

What do people say ?

PEARL

Oh nothing -

BRANTCHE

Do tell me !

PEARL

Nothing ! I made a joke, honest !

BRANTCHE

Let them gossip. I should worry -

PEARL

Beile took Gitel into Solomon's room showed her the things, and Gitel says its even more than they say. About twelve suits, dark and light ones. And over-coats the new style, ulsters. And silk waist-coats, and pictures life-size in golden frames, and everything smells of a wonderful American perfume. About ten dollars a small bottle.

BRANTCHE

Is that so !

PEARL

As if she didnt know !-How about your philandering with him, you think people didnt notice it ?

BRANTCHE

So they noticed it !

PEARL

Now she'll get peevish. You know I didnt meant anything ! Say, and about ten pair of shoes, with buttons, and laces and with rubber, and golden cuff-bottons, and Slippers with golden buckles, and the seal-ring with the red diamond, the one he is wearing. But what I like best, is his golden tooth on the side, say, do you think its real gold ?

BRANTCHE

They say so -

PEARL

When he laughs there is a dimple in his chin -

BRANTCHE

Handsome fellow, no ?

PEARL

Tell me the truth, whats on between the two of you ?

BRANTCHE

Nothing --

PEARL

I know why you dont care to tell me - its because I'm not your age. You dont care to make me your friend-
(Whispers something into her ear and butsts out laughing)
Ain't it ?

BRANTCHE

You are a fool !

(The play ceases

PINI

(Comes out with a brush)
The Herrs son has about fifty brushes, and I have to look for one ! About fifty brushes ! One for his suit, one for his shoes and one for his hair !
(Puts his foot on the bench right next to the girls, and brushes off the mud.)

BRANTCHE

Father, you're making dust !

PINI

I am your father, I may !
(Brushes his shoes, than his clothes, and after that his hair.)

MAYER THE DUMMY

(Comes down the square, an idiot in rags.)
Pini, alms !

PINI

Again ? Didnt I give you a copper only last week ? What am I a magnate that I should give you pension every week ?

MAYER

But I'm living this week too ---

PINI

(Gives him a small square piece of paper)the size o f a coin
Here, beat it !

MAYER

A prutah ?

PINI

Why, its a quarter of a copper isnt it enough ?

MAYER

With a piece of fresh bread and garlic, I'd stay my heart -

PINI

(
You have a rich man's taste ! Go in there -
(Points at ~~the~~ the balcony, and goes into his house. The violin is heard again.)

MAYER

Yes, but the old man says : Dont bother so much - don bother -
(Listens)
Musicians - musicians playing ---girls, may I sit down here ?

PEARL

Oh, you can stand !

MAYER

Ah, fresh bread ! From somewhere I smell fresh bread !

BRANTCHE

Mayer do you want to marry me ?

MAYER

Yes, but you dont mean it. You wont marry me ---

BRANTCHE

Who says I wont marry you ?

PEARL

What do you want her for ? Better take me. She's engaged already.
Well, do you want me ?

MAYER

I dont mind. A chicken is a chicken. That one promised, this one promised - Zeporah, the widow, she rich, I ~~wont~~ sha'nt have to sleep in the poor-house .

PINI

(In the window)
Are you still here ? What are you making the place dirty for ? I gave you a prutah why dont you go ? Beat it now !

MAYER

(Eyeing him for a minute in silence)
~~A black dream on your head !~~
A black dream on your head !
(Goes up the lane.)

PINI

Nice company - Mayer the dummy !

(A violent mewing of a cat is/~~ssss~~ audible from ~~the~~ inside Pini jumps to the other side of the window.)
Whiew ! The black tomcat again ! A black ~~ssss~~/ dream on your head ! ~~(Chases~~/him Get out of here !
(Chases the cat into the interior with a stamping of his feet.)

PEARL

You peomised to show me your new lace collar, come inside !

BRANTCHE

You cat -! You can hear the violin from the inside so much better -
(Both go into the house)

HIRSCH

(Comes out and sits down to work) ~~(Sits/sssssssss/~~)

BEILE

(Following)
Some play eh ? It melts in every vein ! A blessing upon his head ! I am a [redacted] step-mother eh ? Driven ~~out~~ Jankel from home ? Why am I not driving out Schloime ? Because he's a gem, that's why ! Its a pleasure to keep him in the house !

HIRSCH

I wish God may send him his chosen one !

BEILE

Does that worry you ? Zischa the match-maker comes here every minute with a new proposal. The girls parade up and down the balcony all day long. And why do you think do so many people come with clocks ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ ? They want to have alook at the American !

HIRSCH

Yes, but -

BEILE

Even there - Pini --it makes me laugh - Besi keeps on mentioning her Brantche , she thinks ~~that~~ because we're neighbors - mind you !

HIRSCH

Well, a mother you know -

BEILE

~~Well~~ Yes, but one should know his place and old maid, ~~ssssssss~~ and ---such a joy, such a pride !

HIRSCH

After all he is a dare-devil ! A brat of sixteen runs away from home, and brings about such a thing . True I stood enough 'count of it - he put us to shame - and they kept saying : You ll see he'll come home the Prodigal Son --

BEILE

But now thy'll burst of envy -

HIRSCH

The Lord be thanked - he did n o t come home the Prodigal Son !

BEILE

Er - Hirsch --Ho much more or less ~~//////////////~~ do you think he owns - ?

HIRSCH

Why do you ask again and again ? You know I dont know !

BEILE

But you are a father ! I thought you had the right to ask -

HIRSCH

If he dont ~~mmm~~ tell me of his own will, I'm not going to pry into it. He is no more a child, he is a man of the world !

BEILE

In due time he'll gain more confidence. He still feels himself a stranger here. Well I'm going to give him another glass of tea. (Goes into the house)

A RED-HEADED MAN

(Comes from the lane carrying a clock, goes up on the balcony)
A nice job you made !

HIRSCH

Whats the matter ?

RED-HEADED MAN

Whats the matter ? You made a bum job ! Thats the matter ! It stopped as soon as I brought it home !

HIRSCH

Lets see -

RED-HEADED MAN

Its a shame ! To take away the last Krone from a poor man like me

My wife says - she needs ticking the feathers are coming out and I said- the clock is more important.

HIRSCH

Ssh ! Dont make a racket !
(Takes the clock and investigates)
SOLOMON comes out and remains in the door unseen for a while.)

RED-HEADED MAN

What did I need the whole troble for ? The clock was stopping for fifteen years on the wall, it could stop fifteen more. Only I thought - there is a new watch-maker, an American- I didnt know you were going to fix it yourself !
(Perceives Solomon and changes his attitude, speaks politely)
I see a poor man has no chance with you, you wont touch a poor man's clock !

SOLOMON

Why, what do you mean ?

HIRSCH

I say, dont make a racket here , did you hear me ? I'll fix it again. I wont charge you anything. Go your way now.
(embarrassed)
(Solomon busies himself with the tools .)

RED-HEADED MAN

Not until I see him take it into his hands, then I'll be sure it'll be good.
(~~Hirsch and Solomon exchange looks~~)

HIRSCH

(To Solomon)
Oblige him -

SOLOMON

(In an outburst of anger)
Now, dont be so sure !

R. H. MAN

(Laughs knowingly)
Oh, but I _am_ sure ! You You ought to know !

SOLOMON

Allright, go !

R. H. MAN

(To Hirsch)
When shall I come ?

HIRSCH

Tomorrow afternoon.

R. H. MAN

Allright, tomorrow afternoon. Good day !
(Goes away)

SOLOMON

Papa -- I know what you are thinking about ; I'm a bungler ---

HIRSCH

Oh no. In our family there are no bunglers . Your grand-father was no bungler, neither are you. At twelve you were a finished craftsman, only - you no more have the patience - why should you ? Your business is managing a factory - Its --

SOLOMON

(Interrupts him)
Er - Papa--I wanted to ask you - I wanted to speak to you about Jankel-

HIRSCH

Dont ---

SOLOMON

~~After~~ A brother after all. Why -.there ought to be s o m e way of locating him. Five years since he disappeared isnt it ?

HIRSCH

Five years.----

SOLOMON

Its my fault --

HIRSCH

Why is it your fault ?

SOLOMON

Its I showed him a bad example.

HIRSCH

What do you know ? He may drop down on us any day, his fortune made, same as you -- ~~you~~ --

SOLOMON

~~Not everybody has an equal chance you know --~~ Most likely he met with no luck , most likelyhe is starving, without a roof over his head. Most likely he'd come a running home but -He's ashamed. One does not

want to come home the Prodigal Son--- But after he'll have had ~~forteen~~ years of hardship ~~~~ --he will care no more.

(After a while)
And may be - he's lazy--- I too was lazy once upon a time . ~~////~~r Papa , we dont take a f t e r y o u ?

HIRSCH

(Scanning him sharply)
Eh ? You mother- may she rest in peace---she had a brother----

SOLOMON

I know, I know, Schlcimele" Tramp," dont I remember my nick-name
(Laugh)

LEIBKE

(Comes from his house)
Solomon, did you see the letter-carrier ?

SOLOMON

No, I didnt see the letter-carrier '

SALI and MATILDA BLANK come down the square. Both wear deep mourning SALI smokes a cigarette. MTILDA is a pale-faced brunette of twenty five, a nervous coquette with quick almost jerky movements, a ~~//////~~c capricious ravishing beauty. Her mother is a phlegmatic person, with an occasional effort at playing the grand dame. Both pass by the balcony looking at Solomon, Matilda turning her head, they disappear in the Inns.

SOLOMON

Who are the ladies in mourning ? The young one passes her often -

~~/////~~ HIRSCH

What, you dont know this young lady ? ! You certainly are a green-horn ! ~~[struck out]~~ ! Its Jonas Blank the land-owner his grand-daughter with her mother ! Her grand-fathers estate is three times the size of this town! ~~[struck out]~~
~~/////////////////~~
Is that so, she passes here often by ?

SOLOMON

I noticed her a coupple of times.

LEIBKE

YOU like her eh ? Own up !

SOLOMON

So why are they ~~[illegible]~~ in mourning ?

HIRSCH

Her father died several months ago .

SOLOMON

Her mother somkes cigarettes -

LEIBKE

They're up-to-date - They talk nothing but Polish.

SOLOMON

I almost forgot that smoking is an ordinary thing here -

LEIBKE

You like her, eh ? Own up now ? ~~[illegible]~~
(Goes laughing into the house)

HIRSCH

The less you fuss with ~~a~~ (that) fool ~~like this~~, the better. ~~[illegible]~~
(Pause) Ah, for a bit of luck ! They say her grandfather came with his boots on his shoulder from Russia, and now he rides in carriages. Any time he comes to town he draws up at Mani Brenner's - they stop there you know - he draws up with his fine horses !

SOLOMON

Brenner ? The name sounds familiar.

HIRSCH

Oh you must know them, they have a nephew in America. In New-York.

SOLOMON

Abe Brenner ?

HIRSCH

That's right. He ~~too~~ was an orphan. He too didnt communicate with them for many years.

BEILE

(Comes out)
Shloime, will you have another glass of tea ?

SOLOMON

No thanks. Papa let me.

HIRSCH

Its the red man's clock.

SOLOMON

The red man's clock ? Mother, did you say you have another glass of tea for me ?

BEILE

Certainly ! Am I not begging you ?
(Both go into the house.)

LEIBKE

(Comes out, Nesi following)
If she gets patent leather shoes, [redacted] I'm going to get an ulster !

NESI

A sickness in your bones ! Where shall I get you an oister" ? What's the matter with the old over-coat ?

LEIBKE

You heard me !

NESI

Its because the American has an oister , eh ? Its because it has the pockets on the side, you want them on the side too, eh ? Well you sha'nt have 'em !

LEIBKE

You heard me ! I am two years older than him and I am not going TO stay behind !

NESI

What business do you have to ape the American in everything ? The American is a rich man and you are a pauper ! He is a man of the world ! Why dont you go to America bring home a fortune, then [redacted] ask for an oister !

LEIBKE

Why dont you give me the money ?

NESI

A sickness in your bones !

LEIBKE

Here I'm telling it to you remember : If I dont get an ulster, I'll get a knife and cut either ////////////// my throat or yours !

PINI

(In the window puts a fist to his mouth)
Lei-be-niu Lei-be-niu!

LEIBKE walks up the square)

HESI

Can you beat that ? !
(Goes into the house. PINI withdrawsfrom the window)

HIRSCH shaking his head at them goes into the house)

SALI and MATILDA come down the lane . Sali smokes.

MATILDA

~~Just once~~ Mamciu --but once more !

SALI

But baby, we mustnt pass so many times ! What will the man think of us ?
He will take us for miserable pupers -
(Inhales)

MATILDA

Oh, he's gone ! Mamciu-, lets go in to buy something !

SALI

Are you crazy ? What are you talking about ? " Buy something" -
- - -What ? You know you cant go in and buy a cheap thing like a
pawper, and an expensive one - we ~~cant afford~~ mustnt - wit out
dziadzio's consent. You forget that now, we are wholly dependent
upon dziadzio ever since papa --
(Inhales)

MATILDA

Mamma, I'll die ! I'll die here on the spot if I dont see Solomon !.

SALI

Already she knows his name ! You imp

MATILDA

Mamciu , if you'd hear him ~~play violin~~ play violin, you'd die --

SALI

For shame !. Is this the way you talk to Mamma ?

MATILDA

I didnt mean it Mamus ! I didnt mean it !

SALI

And I old fool ~~~~~ didnt understand why she had the ~~horse~~ horses spanned every second day. Old fool that I am ! What do you see in him ? After all he is only a watch-maker !

MATILDA

Mamciu, if I dont get Solomon I'll commit suicide !

SALI

You said the same thing about the lieutenant -

MATILDA

With the lieutenant I made a mistake, ~~////~~, but here its real-Mamciu - darling Mamciu ---

SALI

You're too much of a country-girl, that's why you fall easily for anyone, I'll ask grand-papa to take you to Tarnopol more often.

MATILDA

I'll commit suicide !

SALI

Quiet ! I'm talking ! He simply dazzled you with his costly American clothes, and the rest of the wonderful things, folks claim he has. Tilda baby, things arent all. Consider it child ! May be he isnt as rich as people say -

MATILDA

He's rich, he's rich, he's rich. He's a millionaire ! Mamciu !----! (Rests her head on Sali's shoulder both talk quietly.)

BRANTCHE and PEARL come out with their frames sit down on the bench and embroider)

PEARL

Look who's here ! Matilda Blank ! Oh, I'm dying !

BRANTCHE

Why, she hangs around here all the time.!

(Pearl whispers something into her/ ear, to which Brantche nods. Both talk qietly.)

SALI

Be quiet now----- I'll try to talk to dziadzio -

MATILDA

No no no ! I dont want you to talk to dziadzio. He's nervous, he's grouchy !

SALI

But if the man has money, dziadzio wont be against it - ~~It's a shame to send match-maker for civilized people to send a match-maker.~~ How can I send a match-maker, when you dont even know the man personally. Honest its a shame for civilized people to do a thing like that.

MATILDA

Mamma, darling !

SALI

You're a willful child. You make me miserable. Come away from here you naughty !
~~(Go away)~~ (Both walk away)

PEARL

Did you ever ?

BRANTCHE

Am I not telling you ?

SCHEVA

(a)
Wlks up the lane with a covered thing in her hand. She is tall slim, with chest-nut hair. Shakes hands wit the girls.)
How are you ? Wiegehts ? Brantche I brought you something !

BRANTCHE

Me ?
(Wants to uncover the thing.)

SCHEVA

(Dodging)
First guess !
(Afterteasing them a little she uncovers a silver bowl ~~of~~ laid out with ~~multi~~colored candy)

PEARL

Filled candy -

SCHEVA

Filled with chocolate.

PEARL

You're pilfering the whole store. If your father knew -

BRANTCHE

A silver bowl like for a wedding -

PEARL

The're very expensive I brought them ~~to~~ you -

BRANTCHE

THanks !
(Wants to take some)

SCHEVA

Wait ! You'll spoil the disign !
(Casts a look at the balcony)

PEARL

Oh I see ---
(Laughs)

BRANTCHE

Oy, you brought it for him and not for me --

SCHEVE

No I brought it for you, but I want him to see it first. After you may have it. Dont you think he'l be out for his daily walk soon ?

PEARL

But you know exactly when he goes out --

SCHEVA

Dont you like it ? I guess its you lingering here all day. Do you think I dont know why you all of a sudden became friends with Brantche ?

PEARL

And you think I dont know for whom you are robbing the whole store ?

SCHEVA

Only look at her !

PEARL

Look at h e r !

BRANTCHE

If you're going to quarrel I dont want any of you ! You can both go !

SCHEVA

Honest Brantche, who was it as knew you first, I or she ?

SOLOMON comes out. He is dressed in a light suit a brown plush hat, carries hisovercoat [illegible]..The girls perceiving him begin a friendly chatter amongst themselves.)

HIRSCH

(Following him)
Mother will be hurt because you refused to taste the tart.

SOLOMON

But everything has a limit. If I should always listen t mother I'd die from too much cake. I tasted three cakes today, already !

HIRSCH

If she wants the tart too, you ought to have given in - well, its time to "daven"
(Goes into the house.)

SOLOMON

(Approaches the girls)
Wiegehts Fräuleins ! May I have alook at the fine thinks you are making ?
(Bends over Pearl's frame)
Its beautiful ! What is it going to be ?
(The girls keep quiet embarrassed, while he stoops Scheva smells his sleeve, Brantche lowers her head over the embroidery.)
Y ou dont care to speak to me at all today, Fraüleins?

(Pearl bursts out laughing)

SOLOMON

What are you/all. laughing about ?

PEARL

Not at you.

SCHEVA

(Offers him the bowl)
Have some -

SOLOMON

For me ?Too nice, thanks !
(Takes some candy)

SCHEVA

The striped one, are pepper-mint. They prickle the tongue.

BEILE

(In the window)/ holding up a cigarette-case)
Schloime you forgot this !

~~[struck-out line]~~

SOLOMON

Oh yes ! Excuse me Fräuleins !
(Goes into the house)

PEARL

Its a shame honest to remain - he'll think its on account of him ---

SCHEVA

Oh, Pearl, but your face is red, my !

PEARL

You can take your candy back allright !

SCHEVA

My candy " - I wish you'd take out of the beam from your own eye first !

PEARL

Brantche lets go away from here !

BRANTCHE

Where shall I go ? This is my bench.

PEARL

She thinks everybody's like herself. Pushing himself --
(Gets up abruptly)
Good bye Brantche !

SHEVA

(Rising quickly too)
She saw I was about to go , so she runs ahead of me !
(Both go away hurriedly in different directions)

LEIBKE

(Comes ~~running from the~~ down the square with a package runs into Pearl and utters an apologetic"Oh" --!

PEARL

What are you "oh'-ing about ? You stepped on my toe !

LEIBKE

(Drawls outa longer "ohh--"

PEARL

Oh - h - h! (
Disappears)

(Disappears)

LEIBKE

~~Here it is ! Here it is~~ ! I have it ! I have it ! Here it is !
(Begins to ~~unpack~~ unwrap the package on the bench. Beile thrusts her head through the window, Nesi comes out.)

NESI

Again ? ~~What is this~~

LEIBKE

Here Mamma, put away the cord, ~~[crossed out]~~. Put away the wrapping-paper too, ~~[crossed out]~~. Now we're going to get at the real thing-

BEILE

What is it , let me also have a look -

LEIBKE

Here it is !
(Takes out a kind of black flap , cut after the pattern of a pair of monster mustaches and puts it on.)

NESI

A schwartzer ! Whats this ? !

LEIBKE

This will make the mustaches curl upwards. First you wash the mustaches with a fine smelling soap, its in this box here. Then you rinse them in two basins full of water. One basin for one mustache. Then you dry them with a clean towel, then you rub it with alcohol, then youput cold-cream on, and then you put on this here thing. Its called the Royal Mustache Protector ! It costs ten Kronen !
(eyes himself in a pocket-mirror. Brantche shakes her head at him in derision.)

NESI

Beile darling, what do you have an idea, what this costs ? Children up-to-date. Almost every week an order from Vienna. And look at my Fraülein ! Today she set her mind on patent-leather shoes !

BEILE

Oh, what do you need all those rags for ? You better see to it, that there is more cash - 'you know---- a girl now-adays --
(Brantche grows attentive)

NESI

May you have as many happy years, as many hundreds of Kronen she'll get !

BRANTCHE

Mother !
(runs into the house)

NESI

Sure, she is right. Whats the use boasting ?

BEILE

Believe me I'm not begrudging it ~~to~~ you . I am no enemy of yours.
(goes up the balcony and into the house .

NESI

Only look at her ! She thinks she caught God by the legs already ! She thinks Solomon will be a support in her old age. She thinks he forgot already ~~how~~ how she used to chase him out of the house ! What are you standing here for ? I didnt want her to hear, but a sickness in your bones, where will you get ten Kronen ? If papa will find out he'll -

PINI

(In the window)
Ten Kronen ? Who wants ten Kronen ?
(Puts a fist to his mouth)
Lei-be -niu ! Lei-be-niu !
(Jumps out through the window)

NESI

~~Jump back you wont grow~~. (Alarmed)
Get back quick, or you'll never grow !

LEIPKE

(Grabs the things and runs into the house shouting)
Its paid ! Its paid ! I borrowed the money from Moti !

PINI

And who is going to pay back Moti ? You will borrow money, will you ?
(Follows him into the house.)

NESI

~~///~~ Leave him alone ! Leave alone the baby !
(Hurries into the house)

(From ~~w~~ inside are heard all their ~~~~ voices : Stop ! Let go ! Dont ! I'll fix you ! ")

BRANTCHE comes out pressing her forehead, closes both windows. The noise subsides then dies out. She sits down on the bench musing her head propped on her elbows.)

SOLOMON comes out on the balcony)

BEILE

(Following)
Beauty is skin-deep, the main thing is - her grand-father's estate!
Thats the main thing !
(Goes back into the house)

SOLOMON

(Reflecting a while goes down the balcony, stops at the bench)
Why so down-hearted ?

BRANTCHE

Downhearted ?

SOLOMON

Do you know you didnt change a bit in those fourteen years ?
Excepting that -

BRANTCHE

My hair has turned grey -

SOLOMON

And even this is becoming to you !.

BRANTCHE

Why dont you say "thou" to me as you used to ?

SOLOMON

Because its bad manners ! They dont do that among civilized people.

BRANTCHE

It seems to me, that even among civilized people, there are some, who say "thou" to each other --

SOLOMON

Yes , but those are very near relations ; as for instance a sister and a brother, sweet-hearts - but strangers, as for instance we -----

BRANTCHE

(Turns away her head)
Strangers ----oh yes- with strangers ------its allright.

SOLOMON

Gives a forced laugh)
Its peculiar how ignorant, how stupid a provincial is - Do you

recollect the nonsense we spoke to each other before I left ?
The things we promised each other ? You too were a foolish little girl then - What is it I said then , do you remember ?

BRANTCHE

Why should we [illegible] call back to mind things, that happened fourteen years ago ?

SOLOMON

([illegible])
In a jiffy I was going to send you a ticket, become a family man ----
([illegible])
What do t h e y know about the world outside ? Until you get a chance at earning a bare living ? One has to stand a great deal believe me. I of course was an exception. I found employment soon. Americanized rapidly, began saving money, opened up a factory. did business with the biggest concerns to the amount of thousands of doll---
(Stops abruptly, as if checked by a sudden recollection begins to whistle some mournful melody)

ZISCHA THE MATCH-MAKER

(Comes down the square he is an emaciated wiry little man, with a cunning but mild face)
Gott helf Solomon, are you about to go away ? Wait, dont hurry !

SOLOMON

What is it, a new match ?

ZISCHA

I dont need you yet. I want to speak to papa first, but wait , dont go away. We'll need you too.!
(Goes into the house.)

SOLOMON

That man is getting on my nerves ! Well, what are you thinking about ?

BRANTCHE

You'll excuse me --I'm wanted inside ----

SOLOMON

Yes, certainly !

(Brantche goes into the hous . Solomon turns towards the square, Beile in the window calls him back)

BEILE

SCHLOIME, dont go away, we need you ! An important thing. A very important thing !

SOLOMON

I'm going to buy a cigar, I'll be back in a minute!

EMILE

Allright !
(Disappears)

THE OLD MAN

(comes out from the house over the lane. His head is bandaged as before, but instead of the shawl he wears a long habit. He carries a clock.)
Gott helf, are you going away ?

SOLOMON

Yes, what can I do for you ?

OLD MAN

I wanted to ask you-being that you are an American -

SOLOMON

Oh, Papa knows even more than I - to be sure.

OLD MAN

Papa is allright,but I thought that you ~~/////~~ yourself would -
(About to go)

SOLOMON

Lets see !
(Takes the clock)

OLD MAN

Do you see, a few pieces are missing. Everything is there, the clock, the glass, the arms, and the pendulum -

SOLOMON

(Turns the clock , and displys an empty case)
A few pieces are missing , eh ?

OLD MAN

I'm tellin you ~~I~~ everything is there -

SOLOMON

Where did you get this clock ?

OLD MAN

Off the garret. Took it down from the garret.

SOLOMON

I'd advise you to put ~~back~~ it back on the garret -

OLD MAN

If this clock would be good, I wouldnt come to y o u !
(Goes peevishly into his house, Solomon goes up the square.)

ZISCHA

(Comes out, talks back into the house.) My word is as good as gold !
I'm going back there now. You talk to Solomon !
(Comes down the balcony ,stroking his beard contently)

PINI

(Opens his door stealthily waits until Zischa comes down, steps out hurriedly)
Zischa ! Zischa !

ZISCHA

What is it ? I'm very busy now !

PINI

(Leads him aside)
Well ?

ZISCHA

What are you bothering me [redacted] ? You're offering only six hundred - !

PINI

Ssh --! Nesi dont know about it !

ZISCHA

Well, let me tell you, your old woman has more sense than you-
True, its next door, but -my dear man, nowadays, money talks. I have now for instance - well, whats the use of talking ? See here !
(Takes out a note-book from his breast-pocket)
Do you see that ? This here is ful of matches. Here are the five hundred Kronen ones, and here underlined with red ink are the thousand Kronen ones. He - (Pointing at the balcony) is among the thousand Kronen ones. You Pini have no idea, how high the the "article" is nowadays - Any pair of trousers will have his eight hundred now-adays !

PINI

YOU're a cheat ! Thats what you are ! When it comes to my Leibke its different words you talk ! After all he is only a watch-maker. A working-man. And believe me its very degrading for a decent family name to -

ZISCHA

Dont you worry. His money will shield him. Besides who are you ?

PINI

I - ? Darn you , not one ~~[illegible]~~ in the family ~~[illegible]~~ ever worked ! I can prove it up to my great grand-father !

ZISCHA

Its a matter of taste, I'd rather work than live on charity !

PINI

And I'd rather - well, whats the use talking ? You're a low character , thats what you are !

ZISCHA

Well I have no time to tell you , that its you, who are a low character !
(Goes down the lane Pini following him, both disappear.)

HIRSCH

(Comes out on the balcony, Beile following)
Yes, but where is he ?

BEILE

He went to buy a cigar.

(BRANTCHE comes out steals to the side of the balcony and listens unobserved.)

HIRSCH

What do you think of such luck ?

BEILE

Well, doesnt he deserve it ? Why he is a gem ! Honestly I dont care to be out of the house for a minute ! Ever since he came home, there is mirth in every corner ! ~~[illegible]~~ I am a ~~[illegible]~~ step-mother, am I not ? Driven Jankele from home ? I'm telling you he is ~~[illegible]~~ wonder ! There he is !

SOLOMON

(Comes down the square)
Well what kind of "wonderful proposal" did Zischa bring you today ?

HIRSCH

A really wonderful proposal, my son !

SOLOMON

Every day its getting more wonderful - !

HIRSCH

No, this time its real -- ~~[illegible]~~. because he didnt bring it. It came by itself.

SOLOMON

You're making me curious -

BEILE

Dont torture him !

HIRSCH

Jonas Blank, his grand-daughter -

SOLOMON

His grand-daughter ?

HIRSCH

Yes, they sent him from Jonas Blank.

SOLOMON

They sent him ?

HIRSCH

Yes, they sent him, and they want to make arrangements for engagement party tonight -

SOLOMON

Tonight ?---

HIRSCH

You're going to be a landowner !

BEILE

With many servants.

HIRSCH

You'll own carriages and horses -

BEILE

Chickens and ducks-

HIRSCH

Flowing with milk and honey-

BEIL

Your own butter and eggs -

HIRSCH

They'll wait on you -

BEILE

Treat you to the best-

HIRSCH

You wont have to work, others will slave for you-

BEILE

They'll call you "Master

SOLOMON

Let me think ! My head reels !

BEILE

Let him get over it !

SOLOMON goes into the house

HIRSCH

I wish you luck my son !

BEILE

I wish you luck Schloimenlu !
(Both follow him into the house)

BRANTCHE leaves her hiding-place and rushes into the house sobbing.

(Curtain)

THE SECOND ACT .

On Jonas Blank's estate four weeks later. The scene is laid in the sitting-room. The furniture is mahogany upholstered in red plush. Portieres to match. There are rugs candelabra, bric-a-brac. At center two French windows are facing the orchard. In the windows are cherry- trees in bloom. At left center is a door leading into the interior of the mansion. At extreme right another opens into the vestibule, and thence to the kitchen. Hammerings from a near-by smithy, and far away sounds from a harmonium are heard through the open windows.

As the curtain goes up, SALI in a green valvet dress ~~is seen~~ standing in the middle of the room, beckoning at the open door right, and calling)

SALI

Show the gentleman in here !

SOLOMON

(Enters in a grey traveling -coat, carries a grip. Kisses Sali's hand)
"Wiegehts" Mameiu !

SALI

(Kisses his head)
Jaksiemasz !

SOLOMON

The dogs gave me a fine "How-do-you-do", lucky the servant came out !

SALI

Oh they're very tame. Wonderful breed, French poodles.

SOLOMON

(Takes off the coat)
I al forgot, there is an ante-room here -

SALI

(Takes his coat and places it on the settee beneath both windows.)
Its allright -my baby's future husband is welcome e v e r y-w h e r e ! Matilda as soon as she saw the coach approach the inn, comes in a running the dear child - she decided to change the dress, at the last minute !

SOLOMON

(Goes to the windows.)
What a sweet odor !

SALI

Yes, the cherry-blossoms are in plenty this year. I hope each blossom carries fruit - well , make yourself at home. Papa is going to take us to see the new thrashing -machine. The rest of the family went ahead. Julik, and Lorka, and Emil. Do you know, we're giving a big supper in you honour--We've sent out invitations to all the neighboring landowners. Make yourself comfortable. I'm going to prepare some refreshment, and - (With a significant smile) about somebody else---
(Exit right, throwing him a kiss)

SOLOMON looks around, examines the furniture, trying its softness. shakes the crystals from the candelablra. Folds his arms in content observation

MATILDA (Slides in noiselessly through one of the windows, and remains unseen for an instant. She is dressed in white, with a wreath of cherry-blossoms on her head and braids.

SOLOMON

(PErceiving her)
Matilda ---!

MATILDA

(Rushing at him)
I've been standing here an hour --!

SOLOMON

Oh, what a pity ! Why didnt you call me ?

MATILDA

Call you ? If you love me truly you ought (to) feel it ! Yes sir ! Grand-mother is right, she says this isnt a real engagement, because we didnt make a regular ceremony. She sais a verbal consent is not enough.

SOLOMON

My people say the same thing --

MATILDA

But they dont make regular ceremonies nowadays !

SOLOMON

(Smells her braids)
You plucked all the blossoms--

MATILDA

The're white cherries.
(Nestles close to him)
Solomon ---you owe me ~~something~~ a thing ---a thing----every sweet~~-~~heart gets it----dont you know yet ? Thats why ~~xxxx~~ I waited for Mamma to go out. I wanted to meet you alone ------

SOLOMON

I know -!
(Kisses her gently on the cheek)

MATILDA

(Peevishly)
Is that all ? You dont know how ! One does not kiss like that --!

SOLOMON

How do you ~~~~ come to know ?

MATILDA

I ought to know a trifle like that ! Paniczu, a lover ought to behave very much different ! You dont know how !

SOLOMON

Who ? I dont know how ?
(Catches her impetuously in his arms)

MATILDA

I believe you ! I believe you !
(Wrenches herself loose)

SOLOMON

(Laughs)
I dont know how ! You mean I respect my Panienka~~/~~ too much, and dare not -- better look out and dont coax me ------

MATILDA

Is this the kind of man you are ? Well, you let me know about it---!

SOLOMON

Soon the holidays will be over, and our wedding will -

MATILDA

I know I know !

SOLOMON

Come here Panienka ---! A Panienka in white ! Before it was a Panienka in black, now its a Panienka in white !

MATILDA

No more mourning. The year has passed.

SOLOMON

When I first saw you in mourning "---

MATILDA

Wasnt it touching ? It moved to tears the whole regiment of officrs. Did it affect you ~~too~~ much ?

SOLOMON

Very much ! But your beauty made me forget -

MATILDA

Am I really so ~~beauty~~ pretty ?

SOLOMON

The prettiest in the whole world !

MATILDA

Arent there any prettier ones in America ?

SOLOMON

I should say no t !

MATILDA

Why didnt you bring your violin ? Next time bring your fiddle, and ~~you'll~~ keep it here .' ~~you'll play here~~

SOLOMON

I'll do anything my Panienka asks of me ! My Panienka, who gave you to me , God ? God there in Heaven ordained it so ? And for me ? An unbeliever ?

MATILDA

We are not believers either. Grand-mother is the only one.

SOLOMON

Now I understand, why people take to religion all of a sudden. I too should like to give thanks for you -

MATILDA

Give thanks to me ----

SOLOMON

Very well, I'll give thanks to you -
(Embraces her)

MATILDA

Come lets sit down on the sofa here -
(Both sit down on the settee)
You like it here, dont you ? Say Solomon, why are you a watch-maker ? You , the big manufacturer of America ? Why dont you buy an estate ? Grand-papa will buy you one. And listen you must know how to speak Polish, or everybody will laugh at you. A land-owner and doesnt speak Polish ! Say : Ja cię kocham !

SOLOMON

Ja czem kocham .

MATILDA

Not "czem", but cię ! Ja cię kocham ! (
(Shouts into his ears)
Cię, cię !

SOLOMON

(Stopping his ears)
Czem ! Czem !

MATILDA

Cię I said ! Didnt you hear me ? From now on you'll speak nothing but Polish. Do you hear ?

SOLOMON

Yes.

MATILDA

Dont say "yes " , say "tak jest" !

SOLOMON

Tak jest !

MATILDA

Kochasz mnie ?

SOLOMON nods.

MATILDA

Dont nod, say "kocham "

SOLOMON

Matilda --let it be enough for today, yes ? Be a good girl. For that I promise you to double my Polish lessons. I'll soon gain back back whatever I forgot in those many years, well Panienka, will you let me off ? But this once !

MATILDA

You're a bad boy !

BLANK

(Enters left. He is a stocky person, with a red vulgar face, grey hair.)
Here they are !
(Shakes hands with Solomon)
Jaksiemasz ?

SOLOMON

Wiegehts ?, Grand-papa ?

MATILDA

(Ingratiatingly)
Dziadziu, will buy an estate for Solomon ?

BLANK

(Putting up his hands)
HERE, deliver the money ! We'll buy you everthing for money Panie !
Well,are you coming to see the new thrashing -machine ?

MATILDA

You may all go. Let mother go too. I 'm going to show Solomo n the village.

BLANK

Well, Solomon ? Whats news in the city ? has the mud dried up yet ?
Say Solomon, do you have mud in America too ?

SOLOMON

We have everything in America.

SALI

(Enters right)
Papa, I'm going to serve tea here, you dont mind , do you ? For Solomon's sake weâll have tea in the parlor today. He has had no refreshment as yet.

BLANK

Until you make things ready, I'm going to show him the manor.
Solomon, shake a leg !

SOLOMON

I'm very curious.
(Both exeunt left.)

MATILDA

Dont go too far !

BLANK

(Tlks back into the room)
Afraid to trust him to me, eh ? ! You whelp !

(The strain from the harmonium is heard more distinctly.)

MATILDA

(Embraces her mother)
Mamciu !

SALI

You're a a naughty ! Such willfulness ! If she dont get Solomon she'll commit suicide ! Well, here he is .
You've got him now ! What will you have next ?

MATILDA

(Hugging her)
Mam--Mam--Mam--!

SALI

Bad girl !.Let me go. Solomon didnt have anything ye t . What will he think of us ? You dont want to starve him , do you ? But do let me go, will you ?
(Kisses her back)
Here ! Here ! Here !

MATILDA

Koochana Mamciu '-----!

SALI

~~///////~~ You wild cat !
(Lights a cigarette)
The servents are ~~///~~ lazy good-for-nothings. Put too much sugar into the cake so it got burned. The biscuits arent crisp enough, the ~~////~~ ducks are not yet roasted and its ~~/////////~~ getting late.

(A male voice is heard singing in the garden (an) Ukrainiuan air.)

MATILDA

Kochana Droga Mamciu --!
(Kisses her impetuously)
This for making such a grand supper for Solomon !

SALI

The whole afternoon they were busy cracking nuts, and boiling them in honey and yet there are not enough macaroons.
(Exit right. Matilda kisses her out of the room. The voice comes nearer ~~////~~ Matilda listens. The voice sings :

Propala nadija
Zabulo sia serce
Zaplakaly oczy moji,
Liubiw ja diwczynu
I to sia mynulo
Hirenko na switi meni.---

The voice grows fainter, and more distant.

DANILO a young Ukrainian peasant jumps in through the window.

MATILDA

(Alarmed)
Danilo ! What are you doing here ? Get back ! Quick !

DANILO

Dont be afraid, Panunciu --I shant harm you ---

MATILDA

Get out of here ! Beat it , quick ! They mustnt see you here ! The Panuncia with the coach-man in the parlor !

DANILO

I know, I know, ~~///////////////~~ the Paniez, your bethroted is here ---

MATILDA

Get out of here, or - I'll have the old Pan fire you !

DANILO

Have him fire me. A city is nicer than a village, and a fellow from the cities is better'n a fellow from the village .
(In ~~//////////~~ a rage)
I'll kill him ! Him with his towns-people !

MATILDA

I beg you Danilo, go out now ! I beg you ! You'll see--I'm going to ---

DANILO

Have him fire me !

MATILDA

What do you want of me ? I'm a Panuncia, and you are a coach-man !

DANILO

Once upon a time a Panuncia an a coach-man used to ~~///////////////~~ ~~////////~~ fool around in the pond like two little-------

MATILDA

(Puts a finger to his mouth)
Ssh------!

DANILO

And now ----Have him fire me ! True, a coach-man is no Pan, although he went to school too, and he too know s how to sign his name nicely- a coach-man is no Panicz, a coach-man is a plain coach-man------- and that's why I brought ~~///~~ back the blouse , which a Panuncia embroidered herself with her delicate little hands -.It isnt fit for a plain coach-man to wear such a fancy blouse. ~~Rosey, I havent yet put it on----~~
(Takes out from his bosom an Ukrainian embroidered blouse, and throws it on the settee.)
And now have him fire me ! (Louder) Have him fire me !

MATILDA

(Stopping his mouth)
Sssh---!

SOLOMON

(Enters left)
I got lost here. Dziadzio left me in the vestibule. So many doors -

Its nice here. Real nice-- Saw the stables, the peacock I saw too. But you do have lots of chickens and ducks and turkeys ! And the orchard I saw, and the fields, and ~~the woods and the~~ had a glimpse at the forest, the hunting-grounds, and the pasturage ! Fine ! Extraordinary !

MATILDA

This is Danilo, our coach-man. I believe you saw him here before-

SOLOMON

I think I did -

MATILDA

He came to wish me luck !

DANILO casts an angry look at Solomon and jumps out back through the window)

SOLOMON

Is this the way they wish you luck hereabouts ?
(Sees the blouse)
Whats this ? A very pretty thing !

MATILDA

~~(Takes up the blouse and offers it to him)~~
This is for you -- I made you a present---- nice isnt it ?

SOLOMON

For me ?

MATILDA

A Panicz ought to wear a blouse like that---all the land-owners in this neighborhood are wearing such blouses----

DANILO looks in stealthily through the window.

SOLOMON

The Panuncia wants to make me a Panicz ~~!~~-very well ~~/~~ !

SALI

(Enters right, a woman servant following)
Let them put the table right here!

THE SERVANT opens bothe doors right, and two ~~fell~~ male servants carry in a round table, placing it in the middle of the room. Bring in five chairs, which they place around the table. The woman covers it with a white table-cloth. Exeunt the two men.

SALI

(To the woman)
You bring in the small samovar here.
(Exit the woman)
Matilda, baby, why dont you put on the new satin apron ?
(Lights a cigarettesees Salomon ~~with~~ wearing the blouse)
So, it was for Solomon, you embroidered the blouse ! ~~[struck out]~~ You rascal ! I keep asking :whose is this blouse ? And she --beating about the bush ! What ~~I~~ I'd like to know is - how on earth did you know six months ago, when you started it ?

MATILDA

I had a prefeeling-

(The servants enter with a samovar, ~~fine~~-glasses, bottles of wine, cake, swee-meats. After placing them on the table in a certain order theyg out.)

BLANK and GITCIA enter left. Gitcia is a small withered woman with inflamed eyes.

GITCIA

And I say its a bad omen. For fifteen years I wore it, and this day I had to lose it ! Such an amulet !

BLANK

Ach, Mother ! You with your foolish notions ! There's somebody here ! Solomon is here. Matilda's ~~finace~~ fiance -
(Salomon kisses Gitzia's hand)

GITCIA

Matilda's fiance ? How can it be Matilda's fiance, when there wasnt even a regular ceremony ! - If the Rabbi ~~[struck out]~~ should find out -

SALI

But Mother, they dont make regular ceremonies nowadays, now with civilized people !

MATILDA

Babcia is oldfashioned ! Here is my engagement-ring dont you believe it yet ?

GITCIA

Babcia is old-fashioned, eh ? And you all laugh at religious ceremonies, and you all blaspheme-- ah Jonas, if thing keep going your way --

BLANK

Hey Sali., may be you'll oblige Papa with a cigarette ?

SALI

With the greatest of pleasure !
(Takes out from her bosom a cigarette-case and offers Blank a cigarette They light it mouth to mouth.)

BLANK

Did he meet Donia yet ?

SALOMON

Who is Donia ?

BLANK

What you dont know, Donia, Matilda's sister ?

SOLOMON

Matilda, you have a sister ?

MATILDA

(Saddening
A cripple---

SOLOMON

Mamciu, you have another daughter, and I didnt know it ?

SALI

(Inhales)
Poor thing ---

BLANK

They took her along to see the new machine. Well, le s have some tea !
(All sit down by the table. Sali serves tea.)

SALI

Help yourselfes, all of you !
(All eat and drink)

BLANK

You'll see Donia tonight with the rest of the family. And its some family believe me. All with faces as red as beets ! Ha ha --! I say Solomon, do you bowl ?

SOLOMON

I know billiards.

BLANK

Can you ride a horse ? Go a hunting ? Piff Paff ! I'll wager, he dont even know how to handle a gun !

MATILDA

He knows, he knows. You ought to hear him play violin !

BLANK

Violin he plays too ?And manufactoring, and what else ? I'm afraid he knows too much.

GITCIA

A fiddle always gives me a head-ache.

BLANK

What kind of things, are they, your things, everybody's talking about?

MATILDA

They're wonderful things !

BLANK

Quiet , you brat !

GITCIA

You too Solomon eat without a hat on ?

SOLOMON

I follow the custom of the place.

BLANK

Well said, well said, upon my word Fanie ! He is no fool, Solomon is, Molodiee Solomon !!
(Pats him on the back)

I say Solomon, do you happen to know, a man by the name of Abe Brenner? he too is in New York. He is a nephew of Mani's, you know Mani's we always put up there, whenever we come to town.

SOLOMON

Abe Brenner ? A nephew of Mani's ?--- No.

BLANK

They say, there are buildings in New York thrity stories high, i s it true Solomon ?

SOLOMON

There are even higher ones .

BLANK

~~[illegible]~~
You bet its a big lie !

MATILDA

(Stamping her foot)
Its true !

SALI

I too heard it was so .

BLANK

(Pinches Matilda's cheek)
You whelp !

THE SERVANT

(Enters right)
Folks from the village have come to wish the Panuncia luck.

BLANK

Let them come in !
(Exit servant)
Those are the people from my estate. You watch Solomon, you'll see something, ~~which~~ you dont get to see , there in your America, Panie!

THE SERVANT opens the doors right, and in come peasants, men and women, among them a band of musicians. All bow ~~[illegible]~~ reverently with a "Dzień dobry" Daj Boze szczęscie ", kissing everybody's hands. The musicians play a Kolomejka, to which a boy and a girl ~~[illegible]~~ dance. Others remove the table ~~to the side~~, and join them. After that, they play and dance a Mazurka, and other Polish and Ukrainian dances. Danilo is seen to look in occasionally through /

the window. After the dance is over Blank distributes some coins among the peasants, Solomon following his example. The peasants then ~~begin to~~ take leave, bowing again with "Caluje ronczki", "Do widzenia" Buwajte zdorowi" again kissing everybody's hands including Solomon's, and go out. In the rush Blank gets a hold of the peasant dancing-girl, draws her aside, and pinches her arm violently, the girl about to groan, he motions her with a threatening gesture to keep quiet. All go out. Sali motions the two servants to carry out the table and chairs, which they do. The parlor remains as before.

BLANK

Well Solomon, I'd like to have a word with you, before I go out, Panie, and you, all of you beat it !
(To Matilda)
You too, whelp ! Dont worry, I sha'nt eat him up !

SALI

Papa wants to talk to Solomon - come ! Matilda baby, Mother ! Dont forget Papa, we have a supper here tonight, bring them home early !

CICIA

Over every little nothing they make a racket, they turn the house topsy turvy. My head is spinning ! For fifteen years I wore it, and this day--
(Sali takes her arm and together with Matilda leads her out of the room. Only Blank adn Solomon remain.)

BLANK

Er - Solomon, what do you intend to do with your money ?

SOLOMON

What would you advise me to ?

BLANK

It depends - on how much - cash there is. Really, I dont understand those people Panie ! A man makes a fortune in America, comes home and- takes up watch-making ! Its very nice on your part, to help out your father, very considerate, I appreciate it, but - to do watch-making !

SOLOMON

We're not ashamed of work, there-in America .

BLANK

What bank did you deposit your money in ?

SOLOMON

I**--? My money --? In --no bank.

BLANK

Why - what then did you do with it,?

SOLOMON

Its with me - I mean, home. With my father.

BLANK

What do you mean ? I dont understand this Panie, you took the money out of the bank , where it would yield you a considerable interest, and took it hom e--! The man is cracked, Panie !

SOLOMON

I never put my money in the bank, I invested it with Papa, from the very beginning. You know Papa has a jewelry shop. Its very natural that he should want to enlarge his business, and for me his son, to give him that privelege-

BLANK

(Scanning him sharply)
A"jewelry- shop" you call that ? And you put your money in there ? And for w h o m Panie are you going to enlarge that jewelry-shop"? for the lousy paupers, in that muddy town of yours ? Are they in need of a "jewelry-shop "?

SOLOMON

We'll try to capture the trade from the neighboring towns.

BLANK

Nonsense Panie ! You wont capture me, I assure you ! I know who's who in Tarnopol ! An so do others ! And you Panie, if you want to be taken into this house as a member of the family, you'll have to take out the money from your father's business to a cent,and make investments, such as I shall advise. Get me, Panie ? And mind, this before marriage !

SOLOMON

But didnt Matilda and her mother -

BLANK

What do I care about Matilda and her mother? I am master of this house ! What I say goes, Panie ! They have nothing to say.!

SOLOMON

~~[illegible]~~
If I'd have known -

BLANK

It isnt too late yet, Panie - Today is Friday, You'll stay here until Monday morning. Then we'll all go to town, and I am going to have a talk with the old man, your father.

SOLOMON

Er - my father never interferes with ~~[illegible]~~ my -

BLANK

We'll make him interfere ! He's older than you, more experienced - you may be of age, you myhave managed a big factory in America, but ~~[illegible] things that concern [illegible] conditions~~ in this ~~here~~ country, you're an outsider, and you'll have to listen to other people's advise. Every thing must be arranged before the wedding.

SOLOMON

If you insist -

BLANK

Yes Sir, I insist ! And now adieu, Panie ! ~~[illegible] the machine.~~

SOLOMON

Adieu, adieu ! ~~right~~
(Exit Blank, Solomon musing, begins to whistle the same mournful melody from the first act.(

MATILDA

(Enters left)
They're all gone, Mamma too, she changed her mind. Only myself remained I told them I wanted to show you the village - whats the matter with you ?

SOLOMON

Matilda --- do you love me ?

(MATILDA nods)
Do you love me very much ?

MATILDA
Very very very much !

SOLOMON
Why do you love me ---? Because everybody loves a rich man, eh ?
But ---supposing-----I were poor ? ~~[illegible]~~?

MATILDA
But you're n o t ~~[illegible]~~ !

SOLOMON
But -- it might have happened ! Imagine - ~~[illegible]~~
all of a sudden I'm being robbed----Thigs like these happen quite
often-- in every large city.

~~SOLOMON~~

MATILDA
Is that so -!

SOLOMON
Not only that - but your very clothes arent safe ! A friend of mine
~~[illegible]~~ got up one morning and found his clothes all gone !

MATILDA
Thats terrible !

SOLOMON
Terrible , isnt it ? Imagine, I am the one ! Imagine I meet you
in the street somewhere, a tramp - you see ~~them~~ thousands of them
in every big city --

MATILDA
I'd love you just the same.

SOLOMON
You wouldnt be ashamed of me ?

MATILDA

No -!

SOLOMON

If you should see me for instance like this here - wait, I'll show you in aminute, turn away, just for one second, dont look.! (Matilda obeys. Solomon inverts the coat, bends down the brim of his hat, ruffles his hair, and doubles up. Speaks with a changed voice :)

Lady-----

MATILDA

(Shrinks back)

Oh----!

SOLOMON

Lady---are you afraid of me ?

MATILDA

Dont ! Dont ! Its terrible --!

SOLOMON

Lady --I know, you're kind-hearted. have pity on me-! I'm an outcast-----!

(Suffocating with tears)

At sixteen I was driven from home ----a stranger amongst strangers-Scorned---I suffered sickness, hunger--- I slept in nasty yards. I picked the crumbs from other's tables. For fourteen years I wept every night, wept for my home. I didnt want to come home the Prodigal Son, so I hid my hard luck---but------in the end- I had to come home the Prodigal Son -----!

MATILDA

Stop it ! Stop it !

SOLOMON

Lady---You here have so many servants----- poor man and they all kiss your hands---- I too will be your servant ! Only take me in-- the way I am now--a poor man----I too, will kiss your hands, your feet-----

(tries to kiss her feet)

MATILDA

(Screams)
I'm afraid ! I'm afraid ! Mamma---!

SOLOMON

(Straightens himself out, inverts back the coat, smoothens his hair laughs.)
I told you , you wouldnt want me ! Ha ha ha ! You dont like me the way I am now eh, Panienka, Ha ha ha --!

MATILDA

Oh, but you scared me to death ! My heart beats so---feel it !
(Presses his hand to her bosom.

SOLOMON

I frightened my Panienka, eh ?
(Lughs hysterically)
I frightened her, eh ?

MATILDA

(Sits down on the settee)
Sit down here, and tell me about America,"cheesz"?

SOLOMON

"Tak jest"
(Stretches himself on the settee. Danilo gives a hurried look into the window, and disappears.)

MATILDA

Close your eyes --!
(Solomon obeys. Matilda pulls out the cherry-blossoms from her hair and strews them upon Solomon's hair eyes, and mouth. Solomon opens his eyes, rises impetuously and stretches his arms after her.)

Curatain.

THE THIRD ACT.

Three days later, ~~[struck out]~~ at Hirsch the watch-maker's house. The room is a combination of an old-fashioned parlor and dining-room. At center two windows with a door through which is seen a part of the balcony. Another door at right leads into the work-shop and thence into a side street. At left is a third door into Solomon's room, and at at left center a door into the kitchen. Between both windows , is placed a ~~[struck out]~~ a life-sized picture of Solomon, in heavy guilt frame.

Its a windy day, the wind playing with one half of the shutters opening and closing it. As ~~[struck out]~~ the curtain rises a buzz is heard mingled with ~~[struck out]~~ busy steps. Beile is seen looking for something hastily about the room. Nesi pounding nuts in a mortar licks stealthily ~~[struck out]~~ the sticking contents off the pestle. Hirsch busies himself with a pair of brass candle-sticks.

BEILE

No wonder I forgot where I put it, my head is spinning ! A full bag with almonds, and a big bag too ! Nesi Mame, let me do it !
(Takes the mortar and pounds)
The cinnamon is all ground, now strew them over the macaroons, and all will be ready ! He did well he sent a messenger to tell he's coming today with the" ~~[struck out]~~ "Herrschaften , or else there would be a fineness ! A blessing on his head !

NESI

You let me do it, you better spread the table withthe red table-cloth, the ~~[struck out]~~ cloth with th e birds -
(Takes the mortar from her)

BEILE

Hirsch,get the table-cloth with the birds !

HIRSCH

Where shall I het you the table-cloth with the birds ?

BEILE

(Searching every corner)
That bag with almonds will drive me crazy ! Hirsch, what are you fussing with the candle-sticks for ? Put away those candle-sticks for H eaven's sake ! "Oi" they make come in here any minute ! Nesi Mame, did you tell your children to go through the work-shop ? Iwant to have this door clean'
(Points to door center)

~~[struck out]~~ NESI

Sure I did ! But what I dont understand, is why did Solomon chose

to bring h~~i~~s fiancee on an ordinary Monday, if it were at least for the Sabbath -
(Hirsch goes into the work-shop, brings a hammer and hammers at a candle-stick.)

BEILE

(Searching)
With people like these every day is a Sabbath - Nesi Mame, you have no idea, of the kind of life those people lead ! And if you invite people like these ---I'm afraid there wont be enough Zwieback----

NESI

Plenty - And when are they going to invite you out there ?

BEILE

The wedding will take place soon, and then they'll take us out there - oi, what am I standing here for ? Hirsch, what are you standing there for ? What are you doing there ?

HIRSCH

What do you want me to do ? I'm dead-tired. Running about the whole day !

NESI

Oi, the jelly will run over !
(Goes quickly into the kitchen with the mortar)

BEILE

(Finds the bag with almonds on a chair, behind the table.)
Here it is ! The darn thing ! To give me a head-ache ! Hirsch, come help me break them !
(Sits down on a chair, and cracks the shells with the heels of her shoes.)

HIRSCH

Do you know, these candle-sticks along with two sterling silver ones, wouldnt make a bad present -

BEILE

Are you off your mind ? You would dare give them such ordinary commonplace things ?

HIRSCH

"Ordinary " "commonplace " Do you know that these candle-sticks are mentioned in the book of records ? Dou you know--

BEILE

I know I know, I know ! There !He's going to repeat the story I

heard a thousand times over agian ! Here, take this ! For God's sake, what are you standing here for ? Help me with the almonds! Or do somet ing, a n y t h i n g !

HIRSCH

(Puts down the candle-sticks)
What shall I do ?
(Gets hold of a brush and begins brushing off his clothes)

BEILE

Stop ! What are you doing ? Its the brush from the stove !

HIRSCH

So what shall I do ?

BEILE

Open the cup-board, there are flowers there, take them out , and put them up on the curtains.

HIRSCH

(Fetches from out the cup-board two ~~very~~ bunches of very big red and green artificial flowers, mounts a chair and attaches them upside down. Turns his head in ~~contemplation, so as to gain~~ in all directions to gain different points of observation.

HIRSCH

How's that, not bad eh ?

BEILE

They're upside down ! Cant you see ?

HIRSCH

Upside down -? Oh, that's right !
(Puts them right)

BEILE

Do you know, it's seems to me, you ought to have i n s i s t e d on a regular ceremony, its more certain--

HIRSCH

God willing, all is certain.

BEILE

When I ~~thin~~ come to think of that party---in Hani's---and the coach and fine horses at our door---and the whole town green with envy------

HIRSCH

Thank God - the boy has lück !

SOLOMON

(Enters all flushed, with a rosebud in his lapel)
They are here !

BEILE

I'll drop dead -!

HIRSCH

Are they coming right here ?

SOLOMON

They are in town. Are going out shopping. Mother, how are you getting on ? Not yet ready ? - Father, I wanted to speak to you -- to you alone ---A very important thing-- Mother, if you dont mind ---

BEILE

Is it a secret ?

HIRSCH

Just like a woman ! You heard him !

BEILE

I'm going, I'm going !
(Takes the almonds and goes into the kitchen.)

SOLOMON

Papa - er - The old gentleman will be here in a moment. Er - if he should ask you about --money, my money, tell him---I've invested it here--with you.

HIRSCH

Why, what do you mean ?

SOLOMON

I've invested it in enlarge your business, do you understand ?

HIRSCH

Why dont you want him to -

SOLOMON

Father, dont ask questions ! Do as I say. I know waht I'm doing. the old man is no fool --he'd like to find out how much, and in what bank - but I dont think its advisable that he should know, yet -

HIRSCH

But in the end, you **will** have to tell him (so, why not now ?

SOLOMON

Because its poor business policy ! Because this is the way of the provincial, of the small town business-man , We there in the outside world, dont do anything like that. Tell a man the exact amount you owe, be it a fortune, and you lose your prestige immediately

HIRSCH

Yes, but in the end -

SOLOMON

I dont care care what will happen in the end- the main thing is today- n o w !

HIRSCH

If you insist - I suppose you know waht you are doing !

SOLOMON

I told Him , I never put my money in the bank. I invested it here, with you , from the very beginning. This about the bank, was only a rumor, see ? And I left word there, with the bank, that in case he asks, th ey should tell him the same thing.
(groans)

HIRSCH

Whats the matter ?

SOLOMON

Oh nothing, I have a slight head-ache. So dont forget Papa, this is the reason I didnt ask them to put up here, I wanted to have a talk with you first.

HIRSCH

I suppose you know what you're doing.

SOLOMON

(Opens the kitchen-door)
Mother, I wanted to -

(PEIL? listening at the door straightens herself out)

HIRSCH

Just like a women--!

SOLOMON

I beg you--The old gentleman will be here in aminute. They all will

be here. They will stop here with the coach.

BEILE

So what shall I do ? I dont know waht to begin first ! Hirsch, what are you standing here for ? Schloimeniu, tell me what I shall do ?

SOLOMON

~~//////////////////////////////~~ (Scans the room walking to and fro, rearranges the furniture, sees the brush on the table.) A brush on the table ?

BEILE

Give it to me, Papa put it there-
(Throws the brush into the kitchen) fetches a ~~////~~ red table-cloth from the cup-board and spreads the table.

HIRSCH

Come here, rest yourself a minute !

SOLOMON

I have no time, I must go back.
(Fanning himself with his hat)
Phew -! Hot !
(Perceiving the flowers on the windows), mounts a chair and tears them off
Whats this here ! They'll make fun !

BEILE

(Strightens out the chairs)
Schloimeniu, a year today who would have thought of it ?

HIRSCH

It was predestined, It was so ordained, that he should run away from home
(To Beile)
You too have a part in this -

BEILE

You bet I have ! And believe me I'm proud of it ! Look at his fiancee'.

SOLOMON

~~//////~~ Some finacee eh ? What do people say ?

BEILE

They are turning green with envy ! Why, its a gold-mine !

LEIBKE

(Enters right)
I said, if everybody will go through the back-door, I too will. Hey

Solomon, I heard youcame in to town like a- like a ~~G-------~~
so where is the coach, where is the Panuncia your ~~///~~ bride ?
~~//~~
and why dont they stop at your house ?
(Sits down on a chair his feet on the table)

BEILE

THEY will yet stop, dont worry ! And say, do take ~~////~~ your feet of the table ! You dont have to ape Solomon in everything !

LEIBKE

(Getting up)
How do you like my mustaches Solomon ! Up-to-date , no ? This from the Royal Mustache Protector !

SOLOMON

Gee whizz ! Mother, did you clean up in my room?

BEILE

Certainly !
(Solomon goes into his room, Leibke following.

~~//////~~
BEILE

Schloimenin---A blessing on his head. He's simply radiant with joy!

HIRSCH

I never new, you could make such a splendid step-mother--not every-body has an equal chance with you though--Poor Jankel -

BEILE

What a comparison !

(Hirsch nods ironically)

NESI

(Comes from the kitchen with a glazed jar, and a spoon)
Would you mind tasting the jelly, and see if its done ?

BEILE

Never mind, taste it yourself. You know better.

NESI

I dont like sweets, I always get a tooth-ache from too much of it .

BEILE

(Tasting it)
Fine !One can rely on you . ~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~

(The wind plays more strongly with thatshutter)

HIRSCH

What is the matter with this shutter ?
(Takes the hammer goes out on the balcony and fastens the shutter)

BEILE

Nesi Mame, I'm so grateful to you -- where would I be now, without your help ?

HIRSCH

(Reenters)
Out of the hinges ! Some wind ! Well I'm going to doll up !
(Goes into the work-shop)

NESI

My Brantche will be here in a minute with a set of cut-glass.
Ran about the whole morning from one neighbor to another -

BEILE

The kind soul -! Wait, for that I promise that when she gets married, and I hope its soon enough - to get her the biggest wedding-gift, a bride ever got !

NESI

I hope it comes true---

BEILE

~~[illegible]~~
I'm glad ~~[illegible]~~ every thing's ready. Only ~~~ cut up the cake.
You know Solomon ~~[illegible]~~ will bring them here in a minute.

NESI

Is that so !

BEILE

Let me run in , and cut up the cake, Nesi Mame, be so kind and put the jelly right near the closet, let it be at hand.
(Goes into the kitchen. Nesi swallows quickly one spoon-ful of jelly after the other, and when about to put it away changes her mind and take a third. Puts it away hurriedly as steps are heard)

SOLOMON

(Leibke following)
Dont bother me , please !

NESI

Leibke, dont bother --!

PINI

(Opens the door from the work-shop, angrily)
I'd advise you to move in here, altogether ! Take the furniture and the bedding, ~~and~~ in here ! Then you wont have to desert the house !

NESI

Shut up ! I'm going right in !

SOLOMON

Reb Pini, are you angry at me ?

PINI

I have nothing against you--only it seems to me , that when a woman wants to raost potatoes, she's got to watch ,so they dont get burned!

SOLOMON

You're right , honest !
(Calling into the kitchen)
Mother ! I'm going ! Is everything ready ?
(Speaks quietly to her, ~~then~~ making an impatient gesture, then goes into the kitchen)
Leibke sits down his feet on the table)

PINI

(To Nesi angrily)
Minding everybody's business ! Go right in I tell you ! Leibke, ~~/to in your~~ a sickness in your ----

NESI

Ssh ---! Shut up, I'm going right in , Leibke come !
(Beckons him out. Leibke dont move. Pini puts a fist to his mouth and he jumps up. All exeunt right.)

BRANTCHE

(Enters center carrying a soap-box ~~.............~~ she puts it down on the floor takes out colored wine-glasses, bowls, saucers, and arranges them on table.)

SOLOMON

(Comes from the kitchen hurriedly, sees Brantche and stops near her.)
Brantche---! You ---?took the troubl e---for m e ----?

BRANTCHE

(Avoids lookingat him)
Why not ?

SOLOMON

Brantche---! You're the kindest soul on earth !

(Brantche turns away her head)
Do you hear Brantche ? You're the kindest soul---you're worth a very much better------
(Brantche leaves the room hurriedly, center. Solomon checks an impulse to follow her, reflects a moment , then goes out right.

LEIBKE

(Intercepting him)
Are you going already ? Wait, whats your hurry ? Sit down a minute ! Tell me how---You know what I mean----
(Simpeirng meaningly)

SOLOMON

What - ? I dont know what you mean.

LEIBKE

You may tell me everthing. You dont have to be bashful--When I was in Laschkowitz at the big fair, for the first time, Chaim took me out. He was supposed to know everthihg---And what happens----fact is - he dont know a thing, and I the green-horn ha ha ha !

SOLOMON

I dont understand, what has this -

LEIBKE

(Laugh)
An American, and dont know-----

SOLOMON

Please dont bother me !
(Tries to get out Leibke blocks his way)

LEIBKE

I only wanted to show you , ~~[illegible]~~ that I know a thing or two--
I'm older than you -

SOLOMON

That doesnt prevent you from being an ass -

LEIBKE

I only wanted to tell you that I am no greenhorn ---come, do tell me---Its seems to me, if I had a girl ------

SOLOMON

(Pushing him aside)
Let me out,----!A regular nuisance !

LEIBKE

And when is your wedding going to take place, after the holidays ? say , will you at least tell me-----?
(Whispers something into his ear, for which Solomon gives him a violent push aside, and goes out center.

LEIBKE

(Running after him)
Solomon - ! Solomon -!
(Both disappear)

BEILE

(Enters fr om the kitchen. She is dressed in an oldfashioned princess dress and a white embroidered satin apron. Wears a wig underneath the kerchief.) ~~Looks around~~
Schloime, Schloimeniu, did you call me ? Hirsch, Hirsch !

HIRSCH

(Enters from the work-shop. He is dressed in a black satin habit and a new black plush hat , with a skull-cap underneath.)
~~Did you call me~~ A man came with a clock, so I refused.

BEILE

He went to fetch them.

HIRSCH

I'm going in to Schul for one second -

BEILE

But they may come in any minute -!

HIRSCH

Its only two houses away. I wont stay more than one second.

MAYER DUMMY

(Comes center)
Alms --!

BEILE

How do y o u come here ?! Through the front-door ?

(HIRSCH motions her to give him somthing. Beile pretends not to see it.)

MAYER

Already at midnight my heart ached for a piece of fresh bread-

BEILE

Ididnt bake this weak.

HIRSCH

~~/////~~(gives him a Kreutzer)
Here is a Kreutzer--!

MAYER

Aland-owner for a father-in law -- its worth a piece of fresh bread- !

HIRSCH

Now, now Mayer, dont bother, there isnt any. You heard it.

MAYER

(Taking the coin)
I believe y o u , I wont believe he r ! Only look at her--
brrrr---I wouldnt marry her--!
(Goes out slamming the door)

BEILE

Get out ! And dont you dare, come in here again -!
A black dream on your head !

HIRSCH

There-! Picking a quarrel with an idiot-!
(Beile takes out from the cup-board a pair of new shoes, sprinkles ~~strews~~ some stone-alum into them and puts them on.)

HIRSCH

Now I'll run in- I shannt be long. One second.
(Goes out center)

BEILE

Dont be long--!
(Goes to the mirror, rubs some alum into her face, wipes it off, and powders it again.)

LEIBKE

(Enters right with the flap on his face, dressed in a new ulster, makes signs to her as of writing)

BEILE

I dont understand, what is it ?
(~~Leibke makes tickets gestures~~)
Write ? Who shall write ?I shall write ? But I dont know what you mean !

LEIBKE

Crush----mustache-----

BEILE

Oh, leave me alone, will you ?

LEIBKE

A pen--

BEILE

A pen ? You want a pen ?
(Leibke nods)
Why dont you say so ? I have no pen--!
(Blows the alum off her hands , Leibke jumps aside.

LEIBKE

Its anew ulster -!

BEILE

I thought you couldnt speak !

NESI

(Enters right)
Leibke , what are you doing here ? A sickness in your bones, why did you put on the new ulster on an ordinary week-day ? Take it off immediately, or I'll ----!

LEIBKE

Hmmm---!

NESI

Are you going to take that off or no ?--Allright then I'm going to call in father !
(Liebke takes off the ulster)

NESI

Look at -! His Saturddy suit ! Whats the matter with you today ?

BEILE

He's stubborn--like Jankel.

NESI

Beile, Mame, I wanted to ask you to let me put away the "oister" in Solomon's room. You see, Pini doesnt know about it. He thinks its Silomon's . Little by little, I'll get him used to it.
(Leibke goes into Solomon's room Beile blocks the way.)

BEILE

Wait wait ! Where are you going ?

NESI

Weh is mir geschehn" Dont be so scared ! My Leibeniu is no thief thank God --!

BEILE

Who said he was a thief ? Only I cleaned up there. You know they might come in any minute ! Let me do it. Give it to me. I'll take it in.
(Takes the coat of him and carries it into Solomon's room)

NESI

A sickness in your bones ! Why did you come in here ? They are getting swell here. A land-owner for a father-in-law. They should croak ! Get right out of here you churl !

LEIBKE

Hmmm---!

NESI

A fire shall consume you ! Are you going out of here, or- I'm going to call in father!
(Exit Leibke center)

BEILE

(Reenters)
~~What do you think of this wind ?~~
Some wind, eh ? It nearly broke the shutters !

NESI

My old man says, he hasnt seen the likes of it for the past twenty years. Beile, I heard the old gentleman is going to buy an estate for Solomon, is it true ?

BEILE

I suppose so.

NESI

And most likely Solomon ~~is going to~~ will take the two of you to live with him at the manor, I guess he wont let his father work at watch-making, in his old age--- ?

BEILE

I guess so-
(Picks up the old shoes)

NESI

Could you tell me what time it is ?

BEILE

What time ? I'll say with my old man : Dont expect tohe right time in a watch-maker's--- I always try to find out the time elswhere.

NESI

It seems to me , its often better, that on should marry one's equal-

BEILE

It depends -

HIRSCH

(Comes in a hurry)
They are coming ! They are coming here !

BEILE

(Drops the shoes.)
So what shall I do ?

NESI

Look at my dress -!
(Exit hurriedly center. A coach ~~[illegible]~~ is heard to pull up ~~[illegible]~~ at the door. Hirsch and Beile run up to the windows.)

BEILE

Weh is mir ! Its they ! ~~[illegible]~~! The"Herrschaften "--!
Hirsch hurriedly pulls out the skull-cap from under his hat, changes his mind, and puts it on again.)

DANILO comes c enter, carrying a grip, remains standing by the door. After him come BLANK, SALI? SOLOMON and MATILDA .

OMNES

Guten Tag Guten Tag ! Wiegehts !

BLANK

~~(Raises his hat)~~
~~Guten Tag, Guten Tag~~ !
(Hirsch takes off his hat, and bows respectfully, to them.)

BEILE

Sit down please !

HIRSCH

Take a seat please !
(Both offer chairs)

BLANK

Here we are ! The whole manor !

SOLOMON

Take a seat Grand-papa, Mother, Matilda!

(Matilda and Sali looks around. Blank talks quietly to Hirsch, who nods assent ~~/////////~~ servilely

BEILE

(Approaches Sali and Matilda bashfully)
Pray, sit down-!
(Both sit down)

SOLOMON meanwhile takes a hasty walk around the room, scrutinizing everthing, straightening out the curtains, , closing the closet-door, catches sight of the old boots and shoves them stealthily aside, then sits down with Matilda, both talking qietly. ~~___~~. Beile moves nearer to Sali. Danilo leaning on his whip casts angry glances at the pair. (An embarrassing silence prevails for an instant.)

BLANK

(Clearing his throat)
I came to -- I'd like to see those things of his ----those wonderful things of his, Panie ---

HIRSCH

With the gratest of pleasure---They"re in his room.

BEILE

(Moving nearer to Sali)
Some things he has got--! You dont see the likes of it !

BLANK

~~(Surveying the room)~~
Is that all of house you occupy ? So here he lives ?
(A glance at Solomon)

SOLOMON

I'm willing to build father a new house, but he refuses -

HIRSCH

Er - its hard to part with it - a heritage- father lived here-grew up---

MATILDA

Solomon's room is beautiful- !

BLANK

Well, lets see it - Danilo, go fetch the rest of the things !
(Exit Danilo)

SALI

I'm so curious---

HIRSCH

(Leading them into the room. All go out with the exception of Solomon who motions Beile to remain.)

SOLOMON

(Excitedly)
Mother, why didnt you offer them some refreshment ? And here you go and throw a pair of old shoes in the middle of the room. I'm burining with shame ! Ah Mother I didnt expect that of you !

BEILE

But it was so sudden --! They surprised me ---!.
(Matilda's voice calling; Solomon ! Solomon !)
She's calling me - Mother for God's sake prepare something, quick !
(Goes into his room, and Beile into the kitchen)

DANILO enters, carrying two more grips, and two traveling-coats. Puts them down on the leather sofa. Looks around. ~~Takes out a pipe from his pocket. [illegible] from the other grip.~~ Seeing Solomon's picture he pauses before it. Takes out a pipe from one pocket, and a big box of matches from the other, strikes a match ~~and~~ conveys it to the picture and puts it out. Strikes another match repeating the process again and again.)

BLANK

~~(Appears on the threshold~~
(Enters with Sali Matilda Solomon and Hirsch. Danile turns round hurriedly and lights his pipe with the burning match.)
Whats this , eh ?

DANILO

I'm lighting my pipe, Panie---

BLANK

Your pipe ? Since when are you smoking a pipe ? Well I dont care to see anything more of this here pipe, didyou hear ?

DANILO

I heard.

BLANK

I should sit behind, and swallow my coach-man's smoke. The idea ! Look ou, I tell you ! You better look out !

DANILO

I will.

BLANK

And now beat it !
(Danilo goes out. Later he is seen to look stealthily into the window)

BLANK

I must say - they're fine things, yours, But--they're out of place here. Must have cost a lot of money.

SALI

They <u>are</u> wonderful things !

MATILDA

Didnt I tell you, Mameiu ? The wonderful violin with mother-of-pearl. The beatiful mandolin, and the naked statues - That's sculpture !

HIRSCH

It costs a fortune !

LEIBKE

(Enters center with a news-paper, handing it to Solomon)
-- Through. With all pages.
(Gives a long look at Matilda and goes out.)

SOLOMON

(Pointing at his picture on the wall)
Do you see mother, that is the mate to the other picture. An enlarged photograph.

SALI

Wonderful !

BLANK

You see them at every corner in Tarnopol.

MATILDA

Not as big as these !

BEILE

(Enters from the kitchen, with cake sweet-meats and fruit.
They'll be here with the soda soon-
(Solomon motions her to keep quiet.)
Help yourself, please !

SOLOMON

Mother thinks everyone's as fond of soda, as herself---
(Ser ves the women. Passers -by are seen to look in through the

window Pearl and Scheva amongst them.)

SALI

Matilda baby, show Mother what we bought -!

MATILDA

(Opens a grip and pulls out Solomon's embroidered blouse)
Oh, I put the blouse in here !

SOLOMON

(Takes the blouse)
Mother, , this is a present from ~~//////////~~ Matilda----

BEILE

Beautiful -! Does a land-owner need a blouse like this ?

MATILDA

(Opens the second grip and takes out colored embroideries, laces ribbons.)
(To Beile) This is for the kitchen. The main things will be from Vienna.

BEILE

Knock wood--!
MATILDA Speaks to Sali quietly, and Solomon takes aside Beile)

SOLOMON

For Heavens sake, Mother, coul'nt you find a better thing than soda ?
Why didnt you send for wine ?

PINI

(Enters right)
Beile, did you see my broom ?
(Stares at the guests)

BEILE

What broom ?

SOLOMON

Come come Reb Pini !
Trying to force him out gentlytalks excitedly in a subdued voice)
The devil ! Dont you see I have guests ? What are you forcing yourself in uninvited ?

PINI

Only look at the grand gentleman ! Only look at---

SOLOMON

Are you going to shut up, or I'll-----
(Presses his arm)

PINI

Ouch ! Dont squeeze !

SOLOMON

(Forcing him out, shuts the door. Wipes the perspiration off his face, laughs forcedly)
Its a neighbor of ours--(To Hirsch) Papa, you have no one to blame but yourself --

SALI

Its different with civilized people. They wont stand a neighbor like that !

MATILDA

But Dzindzio, isnt he going to buy an estate for us ?

BEILE

An estate ? Thats grand ! I wish you luck !

HIRSCH

(Grows attentive)
An estate ? Its very advisable--

BLANK

The question is - will he be able to ~~take/care/of/an/est~~ manage an estate ? What does he know about rye, wheat, spring-crops, aftermaths ? Moses, I mean Solomon, --he knows watch-making !

SOLOMON

I ~~think~~ guess, I'm not such a block-head. A few books/~~about~~ on agriculture, with an expert as a manager -

MATILDA

When I'm home I so long for the city - but---as soon as I come here--- I'd like to run back. It feels here --I dont know--so peculiar------- Solomon, how can you live here ? Without an orchard. No trees in the windows -and in general -----
(Looks around)

SOLOMON

In comparison to American, I mean New York and other Big city dwellings this is - a palace.

BLANK

From what you say, you must have lived in "fine" quarters --!

SOLOMON

How else can you save money ?

BLANK

Oh yes, money---
(Sali lights a cigarette)

MATILDA

Solomon, play something on the violin !

SOLOMON

Now, in a hurry ?

MATILDA

One tiny bit !

BLANK

Lets hear what you can do.

BEILE

You dont hear the likes of it.

HIRSCH

He wants to be coaxed. Come Solomon, give us a song !

SOLOMON

Since you all insist, I'm going to fetch my violin.
(Exit into his room)

BEILE

(Watching Sali smoke)
Er - Madame- I wanted to ask you --if you dont mind---Why do you smoke ?- I said to the old man the other day Madame must be suffering from tooth-ache, ~~[illegible]~~

SALI

Among the nobility women smoke. Its stylish.

BEILE

Is that so !

BLANK

(To Hirsch ~~[illegible]~~ aside)
What do you mean ? I dont understand that Panie, now supposing he needs the money tomorrow -? How in the world can I even think of buying an estate, seing that all the cash is with you - ?

HIRSCH

Thats a trifle - Should he need ~~[illegible]~~ the money today, I can realize it on the goods momentarily. I simply go in----

BLANK

Very well, Panie, very well --
(Slaps him ~~[illegible]~~ on the back.)

HIRSCH

(Blissfully)
Er -Father --I wanted to ask ~~[illegible]~~ you ---
(Blank makes a wry face)
I'd like to ask you , that whenever you come to town, to put up at my house ---

BLANK

~~[illegible]~~ -- *We'll see -- We'll see ----*

~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~ ?

~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~ -

~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~ -

~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~ -

~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~ ------- ?

SOLOMON

(Enters with his violin and notes)
I had to find the notes too. Well, if you all insist-

MATILDA

Now, he's going to play!

SOLOMON

I'm going to play you the ~~////~~"Turkish March".

MATILDA

No, I want you to play"Adolph und Rösie" !

SALI

Adolph und Rösie Adolph und Rösie " !

BLANK

Quiet !

Solomon plays Adolph und Rösie. As he is nearing the final, a shout is heard of "Fire ! Fire "accompanied by a rising noice of runnig people. All get up in a panic.)

PINI

(Runs in center)
Fire ! Fire ! What are you standing here for ? Pack your things !

OMNES

Where ? Where ?

PINI

Our house ! This house !
(Runs out)

BEILE

(Runs to the window)
Help ! Help ! Fire ! Our house !

SOLOMON

(Takes Matilda and Sali ~~///////////////////////////////~~
Dont be afraid ! You're with me !
(BBth women ~~///~~ repeat in confusion: "fire fire "!)

BLANK

Calm ! Calm Panic ! Dont lose your heads !
(The clamour in the street increases, a smoke begins to rise in the ~~//~~ windows.

SALI

Papa ! Papa !Matilda ! Matilda baby ! Take out the baby ! Take her out ~~/~~ !

BEILE

Schloimenin ! Save your property ! Save your things !

SOLOMON

(~~//////~~ Taking out both/ women.)
Come ! Come ! Dont be afraid ! --
(Exeunt center. Blank gets a hold of all the grips the coats, and follows them. Only Hirsch and Beile remain.)

BEILE

(Running up and down the room in confusion)
Fire ! Fire ! Father save me !

HIRSCH

Up the garret ! Up the garret ! To put out the fire !
(Runs out)

Through the windows ~~///~~ is heard a noise which increases in force also the alarm-bell from the near-by church. A glare penetrates the windows and lights up the room.

BEILE

(Shouts in the window)
The property ! The property ! What shall I do with the property ?
(The voices grow louder , the glare redder, and calls are heard : "Save yourselves ! "Pack you things!" Beile tears open the doors from the cup-board and begins throwing out things through the windows.

NESI

(Running in)
~~//////////////////////////~~ !
Water ! Water !
(Runs out again)

HIRSCH

(Drags in the show-case with jewellery)
Beile , where are you ?

BEILE

The show-case ! The show-case !

HIRSCH

Into the cellar ! Into the cellar !
(Runs into the kitchen with the case)

BEILE

(Shouts out into the window)
~~/////////////////~~
Schloime ! Schloime !
(Throws various objects through the windows)

Man and women rush by the windows carrying packages, house-hold goods children, shouting :" The market-place is on fire ! The ~~///~~ school is burning !" Beile keeps throwing things through the windows

HIRSCH

(Runs in from the kitchen)
Its safe now ! Its safe ! in the cellar. Come ! Come !
(Tries to drag her out, Beile refuses to go.)

BEILE

Where is Solomon ? Why did he forsake us ? Why did he leave the property ? Where are you taking me to? This is my home- this is my property ! Let me ! Let me ! Save Solomon's things ! Solomon's things !
(Hirsch finally drags her out. The room remains empty for a while. The glare becomes a very bright red. The crackle of the fire is heard distinctly, alongside with a knocking of hatchets on the roof.

Leibke runs in right, towards Solomon's room, opens the door and is met by a burst of smoke and flame. Nesi following him pulls him back.

LEIBKE

My ulster ! My ulster !

NESI

(Dragging him out)
Leibeniu ! Mame ! come out ! I'll make you a new one ! I'll go a begging for it !
(Drags him out)

The clamour from the street reaches the highest pitch. Three alarm -bells thrust forth their gloomy "cling clang" blended with shouts : The streets burn ! The streets ! The whole town is going -burning ! Save your lives ! Your lives ! The town burns !

SOLOMON jumps in through the window his clothes half burnt torn, without a hat. He tries to reach his room, but being hindered by flames he draws back looks around hastily, sees the embroidered blouse fetches it, and runs out center, there being met by a column of smoke he jumps out through the window. A pile of sparks and a flame envelops him.)

CURTAIN

THE FOURTH ACT .

One week after the conflagration., in front of the open ground where stood before Hirsch's and Pini's joint house. Each half having a stump left, the rest ~~is covered with debris~~ of the ground is covered with debris. The neighboring house from across the lane having been burnt to the ground a view opens on other ruins, and remains of houses wiped out by the fire. figures are seen to glide by noiselessly and disappear, among the ruins.

NESI walks up and down on what was formerly Hirsch's half, all in rags goes about raking up the rubbish. She moans : Weh is mir-! Weh is mir--! Who ever heard of a thing like that ?- A whole town! A whole town weh is mir!

BEILE

(Comes from across the lane. She wears a man's coat.)
What business do you have to look for things on my side ?

NESI

Enough of my property lies burried here. Weh is mir !

BEILE

(Sits down on her stump.)
I know what you're looking for. I'm wise to your game. You expect to find a piece of jewelry -

NESI

A shameless lie-!
(Sits down on her stump.)

BEILE

Enough of our property has been stolen --An I know the thieves too ---

NESI

Beile Mame, what do you want to quarrel for ? Its bad enough as it is. Weh is mir !

SOLOMON

(Comes down the square, in his burnt suit.)
Mother where is Papa ?

BEILE

(Brightening up)
Shloimeniu - ? Well, you came. Papa is looking for you- Where have you been keeping yourself these three days ?
You havent moved to the Korolowka for good, have you ?

SOLOMON

You know that your little peasant -hut isnt big enough to hold you two -

BELLE

Well, whats news ? Have they come from Losiatch ?

SOLOMON

I expect them in any minute.

BELLE

Schloimeniu, your wish is fulfilled - now ~~you are going~~ you'll be able to build Papa a new house.

SOLOMON

~~(Cheerfully)~~
Dont you worry Mother ! I tell you everything is to the best ! Wait'n see ---
(Goes away a little distance and cranes his neck , as if looking for somebody. Disappears behind the stumps.)

BRANTCHE

(Coming ~~up~~ ~~[illegible]~~ up the lane. She is dressed in the ~~[illegible]~~ sailor - blouse ~~she got~~ ~~[illegible]~~, that torn.) Now Mother , the relief-committee has arrived from Czortkow. They are going to distribute money. Everybody's going there to the city-hall. Papa and Leibke went there too.

BELLE

Is that so ! I'm going to find my old man !
(Goes down the lane.)

NESI

(Getting up hurriedly)
You stupid ! Why didnt you tell it to me before ? They'll take away all the money! Come quick !

BRANTCHE

But Papa and Leibke are there. !

NESI

An awful lot they know ! One cant rely on them. Lets hurry !

BRANTCHE

What do you need me for ?

NESI

You know Polish better, you'll talk to the committee.
(Both go down the lane.)

HIRSCH

(Comes from across the plot, His clothes are torn, his eyebrows singed. Looks around. Solomon comes from the opposite side.)

SOLOMON

I saw you coming-

HIRSCH

I'm looking for you. I've been looking for you for the past three days - I thought you you went to ~~T~~ Tarnopol, into the ban -

SOLOMON

You know, I had to find a room for myself.

HIRSCH

Are they here yet ?

SOLOMON

Not yet. But I expect them any minute.

HIRSCH

Er - Solomon --I wanted to ask you - -- whether you wrote them in the letter that the money --- was not with me. They might think --

SOLOMON

And ~~if they~~ what if they do think ?
(Laugh)

HIRSCH

But why s h o u l d they think ?

SOLOMON

I didnt mention anything about the money .

HIRSCH

But why ? May be , this is the reason, they dont come ? ~~Do~~ Do you remember whht you told the old Gentleman about the woods ? ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~

SOLOMON

Oh, what are you talking about ?

HIRSCH

I cant help thinking it, seeing a week has passed and they didnt --

SOLOMON

Pap, you're accusing them unjustly ! Where a whole communityis so hard hit, that strangers aid lavishly, they certainly cannot remain apart - on the contrary; I tell you this ais a good test. They'll show their true characters here -

HIRSCH

Yes, but -

SOLOMON

No "But ". And how, if I h a d no money ? Imagine for a moment I actually put in my mongy with you ? Or rather - I never had any --?

HIRSCH

What do you mean? You're talking nonsense !"If you never had any "? You dont suppose the old gentleman would take you for the love of you -?

SOLOMON

(Looking at watch, nervously)
You mean to say , they dont come because - ?

HIRSCH

Exactly. You listen to me, send them in another letter, black on white, and tell them the whole truth, that the money i s in the bank -

SOLOMON

Impossible ---!

HIRSCH

Why, what do you mean ?

SOLOMON

Because ----Father--------I am a poor man.!

HIRSCH

What do youmean ?

SOLOMON

I mean - I have no money. I never had any !

HIRSCH

You have no money, you never -----?

SOLOMON

No Father, I never had any ---I have not ------

HIRSCH

You have not ------?

SOLOMON

I know I know ~~[illegible]~~! You'll say I'm a liar an impostor A"Schloime Tramp "--! I am a -----

HIRSCH

Ssh---! Let me---
(~~Wipes his forehead.~~)
Such a blow----!

SOLOMON

I couldnt help it. God knows, I couldnt. You know very well how I ran away - with borrowed, with stolen money - True I sent it back but ---

HIRSCH

A terrible blow -! Especially now.

SOLOMON

Father, but see for yourself, what could I do ? After fourteen years of misery, loneliness----And ~~[illegible]~~ you ~~[illegible]~~ sending one letter after another -

HIRSCH

Its a shame- ! What will people say ?

SOLOMON

Thats why I'm saying - The fire is a god-send. A whole town has been stricken so I'm one of them -

HIRSCH

How could you do a thing ~~[illegible]~~ like that ? In the end you would have had to show cash -

SOLOMON

I'd have evaded, postponed - Once the marriage -ceremony was over -

HIRSCH

In other words, you wanted to get in there by fraud - - ?

SOLOMON

Why "fraud - I'm not the only one ! What, if I have no money ? For that I am a man of th world. You yuurself say, that any young man here in this country is valued in the marriage-market, and a ~~... ...~~ good-for-nothing gets a thousand dowry -

HIRSCH

And all those taled about a factory and -

SOLOMON

A factory ! It depends on w h a t factory ! There are all kinds of factories !

HIRSCH

With hundreds of employees -

SOLOMON

Father ----!

HIRSCH

~~...~~----
And this - thanks yo your "modern methods" ---

SOLOMON

Fat er - ~~...~~ your every word cuts into my heart --! Because --I know - you are right. But tell me , what could I do ? Was I to ~~...~~ come home the prodigal son ? Believe me I had to bear more than enough You here imagine ~~...~~ that we pick the money up in the streets. You have no idea, what hard work really means. It sucks the blood out of one. The very life.

HIRSCH

I for my part - my journey is nearing its ----

SOLOMON

Father, I beg you ---

HIRSCH

Its not for myself I'm worrying - ~~...~~ but when I think ~~...~~ of your wasted lif - yours and Jankel's and --mine-----

DANILO comes with his whip, stops near one of the stumps.

SOLOMON

Father !--! Here is Danilo, the coach-man, Danilo, are they here ?

DANILO

They are here.

SOLOMON

Father, they are here! They are here ! Didnt I tell you ? Didnt I-? Danilo, who is here ?

DANILO

The old man, the Pani Sali, and the Panunoia-

SOLOMON

Where are they stopping ? Where are they ? Did they send you here ?

DANILO

They did not send me here.

SOLOMON

What do you mean they didnt send you ?

DANILO

Because they didnt send me .

SOLOMON

What do you mean they didnt send you, what message did they give you ? ? (To Hirsch) He is a blockhead !

DANILO

They sent no message.

SOLOMON

Did they give you a letter for me ?

DANILO

They did not send a letter for you.

SOLOMON

So why did you come here ?

DANILO

I came here - just so --to look at ----

SOLOMON

To look at ?

HIRSCH

Dont you see - he came to look at the snow -!

SOLOMON

Father, he doesnt know anything. They never send him anywhere, dont you see he is a block-head, they will be here themselves soon, wont they Danilo ?

DANILO

May be they will -

SOLOMON

Surely, didnt I tell you ? Where are they now Danilo ?

DANILO

The coach is athe city-hall.

SOLOMON

Come Papa-!
(Takes his arm , both go away down the square. Danilo following at a distance ~~shakes his head and~~ turns in the opposite direction.)

8. Beile and Nesi come from across the lane.)

NESI

Such bitt r cold - and this in May

BEILE

Sure, one will have to starve to death/ first, before he gets anything from t h e m - They'l see, t ey'l find out ~~[illegible]~~ - they dont take your or fot it - '

NESI

You bet. They're taking their time ab ut it, why shouldnt they ? They're warm and comfortable.

BEILE

The five wagon-loads of bread, vanished,as quickly as they came in-

NESI

We'll have to go a begging, weh is mir ! From door to door---

BEILE

And there arent even any doors, ~~[illegible]~~

NESI

Dont you kick !
You're not so bad off. You have nothing to complain of. . You

ha e your Solomon. A fortune. ~~//////////////~~a a land-lord for a father-in-law. He will take care of you. He will build you another house. Solomon will take you to live with him - Look at us, poor folk, with ~~----~~ nobody to protect us --

BEILE

Dont worry we'll talk to the old Gentleman. He knows iis both our house. Gott wet helfen.

NESI

I wish it were as you say. And believe me, I'd like to be a partner to the blessings your father-in-law will get from all of us -

ZISCHA THE MATCHMAKER

(Comes down ~~-----~~ the square, flushed)
The engineer is coming ! The engineer , he was sent from Czortkow from the government. He will decide which of the houses shall be rebuilt, and where empty ground shall remain. ~~//////////////~~ and the owners paid off. They are going to rebuild the town.

NESI

W h a t - ? He'll have to say anything about m y house ? I'd like to see him meddle here !

BEILE

What do you mean, I dont understand. He is going to ---

ZISCHA

Its from the government. They are going to build this town after the fashion of all the modern big cities. With tin roofs, and broad streets to pass.

NESI

I see, you're taking it easy, because you saved everything to a straw.

ZISCHA

Who , I saved everything ? You're making a big mistake. Whatever I saved got burned in the streets. The rest they stole.

~~/////////~~.
BEILE

Never mind, we know you. You always kick. What will you say to this? (Picks up from the ground twisted and badly burned parts of clocks and shows it to him)
Fifty years of hard toil ! Weh is mir.!
(Throws it back.)

ZISCHA

This is an old story. You're not the only ~~one~~ one. Awhole town. Listen "Weiber" ..., should the engineer talk to you, dont call him Mr. engineer, but say ~~...~~ Panie Geometer, its nicer.

NESI

How, Panie kilometer ? I'm sure to forget, but I should worry.

ZISCHA

Not "Kilometer" but "Geometer" ! There he is coming. Behave yourselves!

Engineer Krasinsky with his assistant come down ~~...~~ the square. He is a young Pole, slim, elegantwith a ~~...~~ thick fore-lock bouncing along with his ~~...~~ movements. Uppish manner. He is followed by a crowd of fire-victims, all in rags and noisy. He stops at Hirsch' ~~...~~ and Pini's stumps, contemplating. Zischa removes his hat respectfully. As soon as the engineer begins to talk the clamour of the people subsides.)

ENG. KRASINSKY

This here house wi l have to be moved a little further down. I passed here already once. It interferes with the free pas age. ~~...~~ This here ground is going to be made ~~...~~ into a broad avenue. Lets see it from the other side.
(Crosses the plot his assistent and the victims following. All implore noisily with their hands. " Herr Ingenieur" Panie Geometer " " I beg you" Please On word " One look " My house " "His house.

NESI

What did he say ? People what does he say ? Panie Kilometer ! ~~...~~ Herr Kilometer "! Reb Zischa, what did he say ?

ZISCHA

He said that your house will have to be moved more to the other side.

BEILE

Mine too ?

ZISCHA

The whole house !

BEILE

Not mine. Not mine. He was pointing to her side.

NESI

Move~~...~~ it ' I dare him do it! He will , will he ?

BEILE

Besides how is it possible to m o v e a house ?

SISCHA

With them everything is possible.
(Crosses the plot and joins the others with the engineer.)

NESI

He will, will he ?
(Follows Sischa)

BEILE

There is going to be a terrible fight. You'll see--
(She too crosses the plot.)

BLANK SALI and MATILDA come down the square. They stop at the stumps.

MATILDA

Mamciu, look what happened to his house !

BLANK

Beggared -!

SALI

(Stroking Matilda)
My baby--my poor baby---

BLANK

"Poor baby " ? Why " p o o r baby." You dont suppose I'm going to give her in marriage to a poor working-man, eh ? I told you a thousand times over, Fanie, there isnt going to be any wedding !

MATILDA

Dziadziu !

BLANK

Why did you drag me here ? I have nothing to do here, neither have you. The paupers ! Not to have sense enough to take out an insurance policy !. Its a joke ! Of the whole town , there were two people insured ! And mind you, they were well to-do,,and in additon saved all their belongings ! An American, a man of the world, a manufacturer and not a bit of sense !
(Matilda cries)

SALI

But Papa - meanwhile he is still Matilda's fiance, we really can't

leave the man like that -

BLANK

Fiancé ? There was no regular ceremony, was there ? You give back the ring and all's over - ! I didnt want him from the beginning. I really dont know, why she fell for him. You spoiled her.

(Solomon and Hirsch are seen to approach the engineer across the plot.)

SALI

But Papa !

BLANK

They sent to me for assistence. All give, I too sha'nt refuse. Its my duty as a man and citizen, but a poor watch-maker for a son-in-law-- no. There he is. I dont care to meet him, frankly speaking.
(Goes away angrily, up the square.)

SALI

(Calling)
But Papa !

MATILDA

(Crying)
Look what happened to Solomon---

SALI

Quiet now, you willful child ! I warned you, remember? And let me tell you dziadzio is right. Wait , I'll show you something!
(Takes ou a letter from her ////dle pocket-book)
See here ! This is a letter from Mani his nephew. Grand-papa got in touch with him secretely. I didnt want to show it to dziadzio, because he claims its my fault. He says I am to blame for the whole thing. o [illegible] I asked Mani not to say a word to dziadzio as yet. The man writed,- he knows Solomon well, but as ffar as he knows, he never had a factory. He was a plain working-man. He never had any money. The fine things he bought merely to make believe, in short he is a swindler !

MATILDA

Its a lie !

SALI

Here, see for yourself. Read the letter. Its written in German. [illegible].
(Matilda looks into the letter, and crumples it. Pause. Hirsch is seen talking to the engineer, strongly gesticulating, to which the latterturns away contemptuously. Solomon blocking his way, the engineer gives him a slight push, and passes on //// a little further.)

SALI

Did ypu see? Its the engineer. The one who has pushed Solomon -

MATILDA

He pushed him aside like some beggar -

SALI

Of course. Thats the way it is - When a man is broke ----But my, what a handsome man - I mean the engineer .I wonder whether he speaks German or Polish -?

MATILDA

(Sobbing)
He speaks Polish. ~~//////////~~ His name.is Krasinsky.

SALI

Already she knows his name ! You imp !

SOLOMON

(Advances nearer the center. Seeing the women he approaches them quickly, joyfully.)
Matilda ! Mameiu ! You came ! You did come !

MATILDA

(Cries on her mother's shoulder)
Mameiu - Mameiu - !

SOLOMON

Matilda, dont you want to speak to me ?

SALI

(Motions to Solomon not to talk to Matilda.)
Quiet ! Quiet now !

SOLOMON

They want to move our house to the back. Dziadzio will have to interfere -
(Hirsch comes and hides behind a stump within ear-shot.)

SALI

Papa wont meddle. He's awfully angry at you, for not having insured your property.

SOLOMON

Who would have thought of it ? The house has been standing over sixty years - Besides I was about to go to Czortkow for that purpose you know there isnt an insurance company in this town.

MATILDA

All all the beautiful things gone -!
(Cries)

SOLOMON

Matilda - dont cry, I'll ~~////~~ get you other things. What I'm concerned with now is - the house. It grieves Papa so. Dziadzio will have to exert his influence -

SALI

Dziadzio w i l l n o t interfere !
(Lights a cigarette)

SOLOMON

Dziadzio will not interfere ? Why ?
(Matilda cries violently)
Matilda, ~~///////////////~~ what are you crying for ? Are you so shocked by our ~~------~~ -or -
(Shouting in a sudden terror)
Speak -- !

SALI

What are you shouting for ? What are you shouting at my child for ? If you'd really be an honest man, you'd come ~~————————~~ and say - I reliese you. ~~/////////////////////~~ (Inhales) Why should you suffer on account of my foolishness ?

SOLOMON

Reliese ? Reliese ? Mother do you realize what you are saying ? ~~———~~
Reliese her , now that I lost everything ?

SALI

(Scrutinizing him sharply)
"Lost everything " - ! You had n o t h i g and you l o s t nothing !

SOLOMON

What do you ~~//////~~ mean ?

SOLOMON

You know very well what I mean ! We dont have to go into details ! But I wish you'd realise that you cant fool a world ! And my dear fellow provincials arent as stupid as you imagine. They know where and how to get information ---

SOLOMON

Matilda -speak to me. Say one word ---!

SALI

Why do you aggrevate the child ? Why do you break her heart ? Itoo pity you, but I am a mother. Believe me if it were in my power to

help you - but I myself am dependent upon my father-in-law. My deceased husband did not make me independent - (Inhales)

DANILO comes from across the square and remains hidden under a stump but within ear-shot.)

SOLOMON

Matilda --say that you dont want me . Say that you're ashamed of me. I'm beggared. Why are you silent ? Matilda, it isnt as bad as all that. I lost everthing, true, but these hands of mine, can work- for you. - (2)

SALI

Do you mean to say , that my daughter should marry an ordinary working-man ? I thank you very much ! Matilda give back the ring !

MATILDA

(Vehemently)
You're a liar ! You never had a factory !

SOLOMON

I am a ----?

MATILDA

I know I know I know everthing ! Here is the letter from Sani's nephew !
(Shows him the letter)

SOLOMON

Oh, you spied on me ! You spied secretly !

SALI

He calls it "Spying" ! We made inquiries.

MATILDA

(Takes off the ring and gives it to Solomon) ~~[illegible]~~.)
You're a liar !

SOLOMON

A liar ---? A liar---eh ?

MATILDA

You're a liar a liar, a liar ---!

SOLOMON

A liar ----eh ?

~~(Looking at her intently)~~

Supposing I am ~~------~~ Must I renounce my ~~---~~ right to live ?

SALI

A nice excuse upon my word !

HIRSCH

(Comes out from under the stump walks up to Solomon)
Come - you have nothing to do here ---
)Takes Solomon's arm and leads him away//. Solomon following
reluctantly. Both disappear behind the stumps.

SALI

Come on home !
(Matilda sobs refuses to go)
Come ! Do you hear me ?
(Takes her up ~~---~~ the square. Danilo sticks his head out and draws
it ~~I///~~ in again)

ENGINEER with his asistent recross the plot advance center.)

E. KRASINSKY

(To his assistent.)
Here I'll show you that I have a just eye. We'll measure it. Catch
that end there. /
(Throws him the other end of the measure.the assistent catches it,
bothe measure the ground.
Its nineteen by hundred, and not twenty !
(Throws his half of the measure over to the assistent, who goes across
the lot.)

[illegible]

(Comes back hurriedly.
Solomon ! Solomon !
(Sees the engineer and stops short. Takes out a small pocket-glass
from her reticule, and fixes her hair, powders her face ~~M/~~. Solomon
who heard the call comes out from under the stump but seeing the
change ~~---~~ checks himself, remains standing nearby unseen.

E. KRASINSKY

Pardon me Panienka ! May I ask, what is such a beautiful Panienka
doing here ?
~~(Looks into her eyes)~~
And why are your beautiful eyes swelled with weeping ? Its a pity for
~~I//~~ such eyes ---

MATILDA

I came to see ~~----~~ the poor people.
(Solomon goes behind the stump)

[illegible]

E. KRASINS KY

How knid ! But the Panienka mustnt cry for
Its apity the beautiful eyes. The Panienka is Polish isnt she ?

MATILDA

I'm sorry, but I'm Jewish -

ENG? KRASINSKY

Jewish ? A pity honest ! However, it does not matter, you look exactly as though you were Polish. May I ask where the Panienka lives ?

MATILDA

Certainly ! I live far from here. My grand-dad is the owner of Liosiatch ? He is Jonas Blank. I'm here with my mother. We put up at the city hall.

ENG. KRASINSKY

(Extremely polite)
Owner of Liosiatch ? Will the Panienka allow me to take her to her mother ?

DANILO

(Comes from under a stump)
Panuncia, its time to go home. The horses are waiting -

MATILDA

All right Danilo, you go ahead. I'll follow you. This is our coachman Danilo . Go ahead Danilo !
(Danilo doesnt move)
Well, what are you standing here for ? You heard me !

DANILO

The old Pan and the Pania are waiting -

MATILDA

(Stamping her foot)
Go I tell you !
(Danilo walks off towards the square a few paces then steals behind another stump remains waiting, listens.)

ENG? KRASINSKY

I guess the Panienka knows me ?

MATILDA

No.

ENG? KRASINSKY

No - ? My name is Wladislaw Krasinsky, Geometer.

MATILDA

I'm pleased to meet you.

ENG. KRASINSKY

May I have the pleasure of accompanying you ?

MATILDA

You're welcome.

ENG. KRASINSKY

How will the Panienka be so kind and wait one minute, ?I'm going to leave instructions to my assistent ---
(Goes to the end of the plot where the assistent has been standing and speaks to him.

SOLOMON

(Comes from across the lane, carries the embroidered blouse Hirsch following stops at a short distance as Solomon goes to Matilda, and gives her the blouse.)

MATILDA

(After a pause of their scrutinizing each other.)
What are you looking at me so ?
(Solomon keeps on gazing at her.)

ENG. KRASINSKY

(Comes back)
Well Panienka, did it take me long ?

HIRSCH

(Walks up to Solomon)
Solomon, I need you - do you hear ? I said I need you !
(Solomon follows him abstractedly behind a stump.)

ENG. KRASINSKY

(Pointing at the blouse)
Whats this ? A pretty thing ! ?

MATILDA

This is a man's blouse. I made it myself.

ENG. KRASINSKY

And who, if one may ask is the happy one ??

MATILDA

No one.

ENG. KRASINSKY
Isnt that wonderful ! But - it must have been made for s o m e b o d y

MATILDA
This is - er - for my future fiance----
(Turns away her head bashfully)

ENG. KRASINSKY
If thats the case then--- one may still hope ---?
(Takes her arm and both cross the square.While walking Matilda is seen to give him the blouse the Engineer pressing it to his lips. Danilo comes from under the stump and follows them cracking his whip.)

The fire-victims among them Nesi and Beile come from the other side of the plot, moaning, some sit down on the stumps, some on the ground. Nesi sits down on her stump.

NESI
Weh is mir ! Weh is mir !

A MAN
Her face is black and blue from hunger -

NESI
My Leibeniu's tongue is parched weh is mir !

A WOMAN
One by one they will perish - one by one ----

A YOUNG WOMAN
(With a baby)
My chicks ---where will I get you a roof over your head ? Where will I get you a roof over your head ?

AN OLD MAN
Where will I put my old bones to rest, ?

THE YOUNG WOMAN
Has anyone got a little bit of bread ? A little bit ? My babies are starving ---

THE man unties a handkerchief and takes out from there a thin slice of bread. Gives it to the woman)

THE MAN
Break it into small pieces, very small pieces. It should last.
(The woman takes the bread and hurries away.)

ZISCHA

(Comes a running , panting.)
Bread ! Bread ! They are bringing bread !

OTHERS

Bread ! Bread ! Where ? Where is it ?

ZISCHA

Six wagon-loads from Nivre alone. They're at the city-hall. Three from Kociubinczyki makes it nine. They are bringing a wagon right here. The horses are in the fields, so the people hitched themselves up to feed the hungry!

OTHERS

Bread ! Bread !

Two men hitched to a wagon drag in a wagon-load of bread, shouting : "Bread Here's bread "! ~~[illegible]~~. Two men at the rear are pushing the wagon. As they advance cente they stop, two men mounting the wagon, and distributing loafs to the crowd, who are pushing each other to get there first and shouting " A loaf for me " A loaf for me !

PINI

(Comes up the lane . He is dressed in an old-fashioned women's velvet-coat, which he brushes off continually. Goes to the wagon and shouts " A loaf of bread ! A bread !
(Gets a loaf and gives it back.)
This is stale. I want a fresh one !

FIRST MAN

Here is a fresh one !
(Gives him one)

PINI

I am a family man. Eight peckers ! One loaf isnt enough !

SECOND MAN

Here is another one and beat it !
(Gives him another loaf. Pini goes to the stump and meets Nesi/ carrying a loaf.)

PINI

Go tell them you have eight mouths so they'll give you two.

(New victims come for bread from all corners , some leaving.)

NESI

(Goes to the wagon)
One loaf isnt enough ! Eight mouths ! Weh is mir ! Weh is mir !

(Gets another loaf and ~~goes~~ goes back to the stump where she encounters Leibke coming up ~~across~~ the lane. He is in rags, but retains the same stiff gait.)
Leibke, go get a loaf. Tell them ~~that~~ Papa is sick, so they'll give you two. And strike me dead, if its a lie ! He coughed last night, a new kind of cough. He crowed like a cock, weh is mir ! Go, what are you waiting for ?

LEIBKE

I'm ashamed !

NESI

A sickness in your bones ! He thinks he's still a "Herr" a Purits! Never mind, the old days are over ! He's "ashamed " Go I tell you ! or you wont get anything to eat !

LEIBKE

Its verydegrading !
(Goes reluctantly to the wagon and tugs at the first man's sleeve pointing to the bread.)

FIRST MAN

What do you want , a loaf ? Cant you talk ? There is a dumb one, poor fellow give him a bread!

SECOND MAN

A dumb one ? Give him two. Its a pity !
(Gives him another loaf. Leibke takes it and goes to the stump where sit Pini and Nesi and hands them both loafs. Nesi nods approvingly. wraps them up in paper.

MEYER THE DUMMY comes ~~a~~down ~~across~~ the square carrying two loafs of bread under each arm. He walks down the whole length of the scene ~~and disappears~~ singing: " Doi doi doidoi. doi doi, doidoi "!. Disappears behind the stumps.)

PEARL

(Comes up the lane. She wears a home-spun peasant coat.)
Nesi, they brought a wagon-load with cloths. Its by the city-hall. Where is your Brantche ?

NESI

A wagon with clothes ?! Ssh ! Dont tell anyone ! They'll run ahead. Leibke , come quick to the ~~cit~~ city-hall
(All three go down the lane.)

PINI

(Encounters Sischa with a loaf.)
You too ? Ithought you had saved everthing ? Not one of the whole town ~~xxxx~~ thought of taking out an insurance-policy ! But now - the first thing ~~I'll go to Czortkow and get myself insured~~ as soon as things are patched up a bit, I'm going to Czortkow, and get myself insured !

ZISCHA

What are you going to insure the rats ? I tell you this town will stay like that for a good many years . As soon as I saw smoke issuing from several houses at a time, I said : The whole town is a goner! You know that wind - Yours was among the first.

PINI

And I'll say it again and again : somebody did it, it wasnt an accident.

ZISCHA

You're not the only one who's saying that -

PINI

(Picks up a broken clock)
Look what happened to the big fort ne ! They say he put all his money in -

ZISCHA

Wiped out. They were not insured either.

PINI

Is it true ? I heard the engagement is broken ?

ZISCHA

How do you know ?

PINI

My wife and his wife are nighbors you know, so she dropped a word -

ZISCHA

For all I care ! Let them do anything they please. I got my money-and-thats the main thing.

PINI

Lucky he wasnt engaged to my Brantche, and this thanks to you Zische you cheat ! If you wouldnt have been so obstinate, maybe my money would now be lying there instead of here
(Points to his breast)
safely sewed in Nesi's coat----

ZISCHA

What , you still have money ?

PINI

(Realizing he said too much)
Money ? Who said I had money ? Its merely a joke. You dont suppose I meant it ?

SISCHA

Never mindold fool - we know you--- a slip of the tongue. It happens.
(Goes away laughing.)

SOLOMON comes ~~ ~~ leans on his stump. Pini seeing him goes to the wagon ~~ ~~

PINI

A bread ~~for~~ the American !
(Voices repeat : "A bread for the American! A bread for the American!
He gets a loaf ~~ ~~ and turns to a man near by .)
Please go, give it to him I durst'nt---

THE MAN

Oh leave me alone ! I have troubles of my own !

PINI

(To another man)
I begyou do me the favour and give it to him. I dont want to put him to shame - It hurts me to ----

THE OTHER MAN

Why not !give it to me. I never refuse to do a good thing.
(Takes the bread.)

PINI

~~ ~~ There he stands.

The man givesthe bread to Solomon , who takes it mechanically going behind the stump.

Nesi and Leibke come from across the lot. Leibke carries a ~~ ~~ an old garment.)

LEIBKE

Here is an uster. I said I wanted an ulster, so they gave me an ulster.

NESI

Let me see it.

LEIBKE

Wait, let me try it on first.
(Puts on some shabby coat with very long sleeves)
Look at that ! They said it was an ulster ! Its rotten !

NESI.

A sickness in your bones ! ~~ ~~ What do you ~~ ~~ expect

this to be an ulster from Vienna ? Oh, those day are over !

REIBME

Its very degrading -
(Examining) the garment)
If this here seam could be taken in, and this left out, the sleeves made shorter. A new lining put in, a new back, and a new front, - a new velvet collar, and if the pockets could be put on the side, and make the coat shorter, and sew on new buttons, then - it wouldnt be a bad ulster -!

MAN FROM THE WAGON

Gone ! Gone ! All gone ! Go to the city-hall, you'll get more! They brought potatoes and pease !
(They pull out the wagon. All shout : To the city -hall ! To the city-hall !
(Follow th wagon down the lane. The scene remains empty.

SOLOMON comes from behind the stump. After a while come Hirsch and Belle.

BELLE

Look what happened to me ! Look what happened to us! Schloimenlu--!

HIRSCH

Hush - I dont want to hear another word ! Its God 's will. You know pride goes before a fall. We deserve this punishment.

SOLOMON

Father, I wanted to speak to you -

HIRSCH

Yes - ?

SOLOMON (Tries to supress his emoti

Ey - you know -- you understand --- that now - I have nothing to do here.

HIRSCH

Well ?

SOLOMON

I'm going back - to America.

BELLE

(crying)
Dont leave us ! Dont leave us Schloimenin in our old age without a roof over our head !
(Holds on th his hand)

HIRSCH

(Choking with tears)
Let go - Let go- I suppose he knows what he is doing .

SOLOMON

(Takes out his watch-chain from his fob.)
This I'll sell --in Czortkow. For traveling expenses.

BEILE

Let those be broken , that broke your heart !

SOLOMON

Father ---I'll not forsake you. I'm going to start anew. May be it will take me now more than fourteen years. May be it will take me - twenty eight. I'll be an old man----but---- if ever I come home-- I sha'nt be the Prodigal Son !

BEILE

Why--? Why -

BRANTCHE comes from across the lane. Stops at a distance listening.

SOLOMON

I've hired a cart already. I'm going soon -

BEILE

Soon --?

HIRSCH

Husch --! Quiet ! I dont want to hear another word.
(To Solomon)
You wait here a minute I'll be back soon.
(To Beile)
Come with me !
(Both go behind the stump. Solomon notices Brantche and approaches her. Brantche turns to go.)

SOLOMON

Brantche ! Brantche ! (Brantche comes nearer.) Are you too running away from me ?

BRANTCHE

I, running away ?

SOLOMON

I wanted to say goodby to you. I'm going away.

BRANTCHE

Youre going away ?

SOLOMON

Yes I'm going away, Brantche. Back - to America.

BRANTCHE

Back --? To America -- ?
(Turns away her head.)

SOLOMON

Brantche ---God has punished me.

BRANTCHE

You're not the only one.

SOLOMON

God has punished me - for you. Because I ~~h~~----do you remember what I promised you fourteen years ago ?

BRANTCHE

What's the use ~~//////////////~~ calling back to mind things - from fourteen years ago ?

SOLOMON

I promised you - I deceived you -- What punishment ~~mmmmm~~ does a man deserve for a thing like that ?

BRANTCHE

You're not the only one.

SOLOMON

Should a man like that be forgiven ?

BRANTCHE

Why not ---?

SOLOMON

~~///////~~
Brantche ---you could----? You would ---?

BRANTCHE

Why not ?

SOLOMON

Not only did I deceive you. I deceived the whole world. I never had a

factory - I am - I never had any money. I am a liar ! I am a dirty liar !

BRANTCHE

There isnt the a man who will not tell a lie at one time or another- I am no saint either --

SOLOMON

Brantche,----and this head turned grey --on account of me ?
Am I worth it ?
(Brantche breaks out in tears)

SOLOMON

You waited for me all those years - thats why ---you remained alone.- ---Brantche, would you be willing to wait a little more ? Just a little ?

BRANTCHE

I'll wait ! I'll wait ! I'll wait !

SOLOMON

I'll take you - there- I'll send you a ticket - as soon as I--- earn my first money ----.
(Brantche: [illegible]) Solomon takes out Matilda's ring and puts it on her finger.)
You're my - bride---------!
(Kisses her)
---Dont----dont cry! You're breaking my heart !

PEARL and SCHEVA comes up the lane. Scheva carrying a black bowl with candy.

SOLOMON

Brantche , I'll be back in a second. !
(Goes behind the stump.)

SCHEVA

Brantche, Pearl, here is candy ! The bowl is burned. Turned black in the fire, but the candy was saved.. Only two boxes melted. Have some girls !
(Both girls take some candy)
Brantche you have been crying -

BRANTCHE

[illegible] Everybody's crying these days.-- A whole town-

PEARL

I too cried this morning - Brantche is it true ' They say that the engagement is broken ?

She doesnt want him.

SCHEVA

I too heard, is it true ?

BRANTCHE

How do I know ?

PEARL

Oh, but you o u gh t to know --

SCHEVA

Serves him right. This for trying to get in with the big cheese.!

PEARL

All the wonderful things burned to cinders. The pictures in golden frames, and the silken sweater. -

SCHEVA

And the mandolin with the green mantle, and the violin with mother-of-pearl, and the ulster, and all the smelling suits -

PEARL

And the new shoes, and the slippers with golden buckles -

SCHEVA

What will happen now ? The whole town will have to go a begging -

SOLOMON HIRSCH and BEILE come from under the stump) Beile carrying a small package. The girls withdraw a little , talk quietly with each other.

HIRSCH

(Takes out a letter from his pocket , and gives it to Solomon.) Here, take this. Should you meet Yankel on the way - give it to him - tell him -- to drop a line. -----

BEILE

We did him no wrong -

SOLOMON

I'll tell him -

BEILE

Let him think of us , sometimes --
(Gives him the package.)
Here , take this its bread and butter. You'll need it on the way -

SOLOMON

Well - goodby father !

HIRSCH

Come I'll take you down to the cart.

SOLOMON

No you will not take me down. No one will take me down.

BEILE

Schloimenju, why are you leaving us ? (cries)

SOLOMON

Mother - dont cry. I'll not forsake you in your old age. Goodby !
(Takes her hand. Beile clings to his hand sobbing.)

HIRSCH

Hush - stop ! I dont want to hear another word !

SOLOMON

Father - I know - its hard on you - but I'm going to -
(Choking with tears.)

BEILE

Why ---? Why ---?

THE GIRLS come nearer.

PEARL

Solomon, are you going away ?

SOLOMON

Yes, Pearl, I'm going away.

SCHEVA

(Offering him the bowl)
Do you want some candy ?

SOLOMON

No, thank you Scheva, we have no time for that. Now -- we need --bread. Perhaps ---when I come back ---but then you'll be-----

BRANTCHE sobs, the girls wipe their eyes.)
Well goodby everybody !
(Shakes hands with the girls. Last of all with Brantche whose hand he keeps longest in his.)
Goodby father !
(They embrace each other both crying.)

[illegible]

Schloimeniu, why are you leaving us ?

SOLOMON

(Tearing himself away)
Goodby !. Goodby ! I'll not forsake you -----------!
(Goes up the square) ~~and disappears.~~)

HIRSCH

(Sobbing)
When ------------and.. When will my old eyes see you again ? When----?

(CURTAIN.)